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JUN 2015
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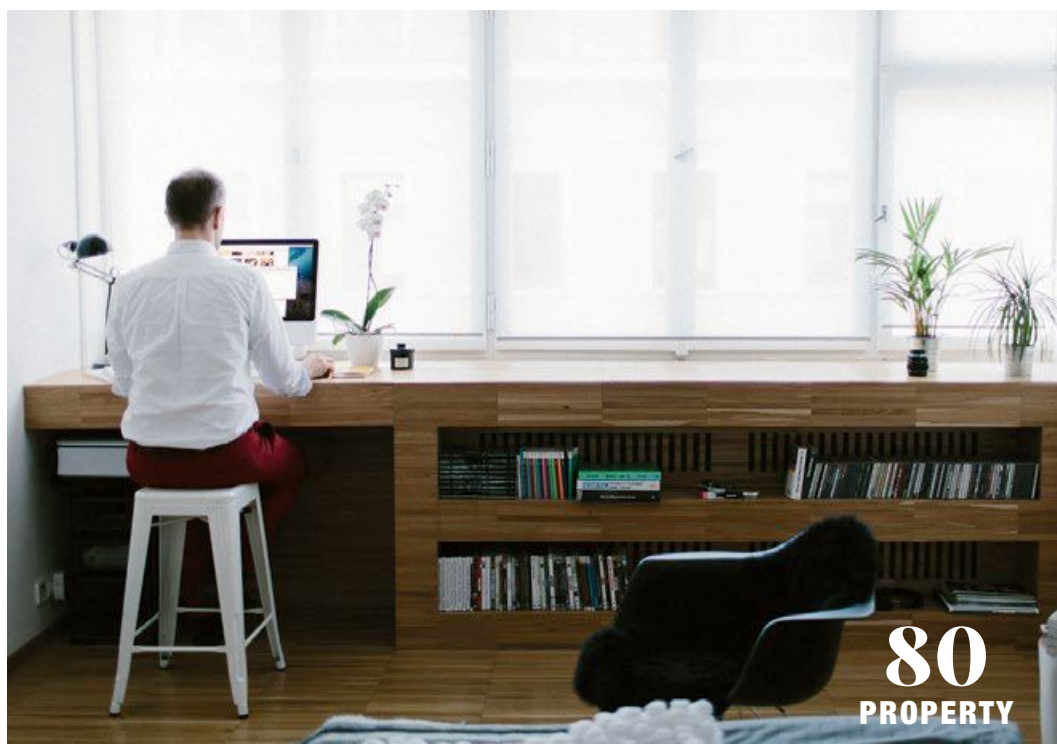


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PHOTO Brim Design

*A spacious
home for work
and living.*

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Gemma Chair by Moroso, retailing at XTRA

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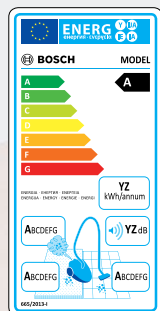
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TIMELESS CLASSICS

In the interior decorating world, trends are always fun to look at, but as homeware tends to hang around longer than fashion pieces, we're a lot more discerning about the things we do feature.

When planning an issue, we like to look at what's coming next, which pieces have longevity, and which launches push the envelope in terms of design and technology. After speaking to furnishing stores for their recommendations, we feel the eight shortlisted chairs featured in the Shop section (p. 46) perfectly embody those qualities. And if you're in the market for stylish seats, you'd do well to give these up-and-coming icons a closer look.

This issue, we also had the opportunity to visit IKEA's birthplace in Sweden to learn more about its philosophy and upcoming designs (p. 76). The company's positioning of offering good value for well-made products remains the same, but you'll be surprised to see some of the items the brand intends to debut in a few years' time.

If you're looking for renovation ideas, we'd like to inspire you with some of the most unique makeovers we've ever come across. We've also hunted down uber-chic Airbnb homes around the globe in the most exciting neighbourhoods.

All done with renovations? If you've got a stylish home, share it with us to win some sweet, attractive prizes! Find out more on p. 79, or head to our website at www.squarerooms.com.sg to take part.

Yours truly,



RU Chair from Hay

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A Force of Nature

Patchwork Jungle is Australian homeware label Arro Home's latest collection of soft furnishings, which includes cushions, kitchen textiles and bed linens. True to its name, patterns such as dots and stripes are scattered across a range of shapes you find on the jungle floor – leaves, floral and other angular forms. The designs are set in a patchwork effect and come in bright pastel hues.

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

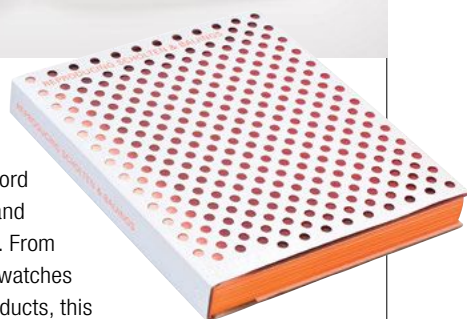
Edith by Elica is a cooker hood, although it might be more apt to call it a 'chandelier hood' thanks to the large lamp incorporated in its centre. The lamp illuminates the area where you cook, and serves as a design element with its sleek and futuristic-looking stainless steel round frame. Recently winning the 2015 International Forum product design award, the appliance will be showcased in Hamburg from October this year.





Inside Story

Reproducing Scholten & Baijings is a stunning visual record of design duo Stefan Scholten and Carole Baijings' design process. From initial drawings and sketches, swatches and samples to the finished products, this monograph is a wealth of previously unpublished images taken from the designers' personal archives. It also looks at their relationships with different manufacturers through seven projects, including Tea with Georg, a collection of dining ware for Georg Jensen and an upholstery textile range Blocks & Grid for Maharam. Available online at Phaidon.



WORKS OF ART

More like sculptures than candleholders, the Crowd Candleholder range is part of the new collection by Copenhagen-based design brand New Works. The series is made up of experiments with natural materials and geometric forms, giving the products a textured touch. Crowd takes on an unfinished, industrial appearance, and sees the mixture of different materials like concrete, brass, oak wood and copper.



ALL DOLLED UP

A new series of lamps take after the form of traditional Russian nesting dolls. Designed by Russian designer Dima Loginoff, they come in five different types of suspended models. "In this project, I wanted to combine the old and modern," explains Dima. "Classical forms [like the Russian dolls] are perfect for redesigning and turning them into something new." The Fedora lamps are made of aluminium – available in metallic bronze and rose gold finishes – and glass. Head to www.axolight.it for more details.





ARTISANAL GOODNESS

What's special about the pocket-sprung sofas and recliners from Hilker's upholstery makers Lederwerkstatt – meaning 'Leather Workshop' – is that their frames are made using traditional techniques, while the leathers are selected by hand, then cut and finished without using any lasers or industrial cutting machines. The range comes in two comfort levels, medium and firm, and is available for the first time in Asia through Harvey Norman Singapore.

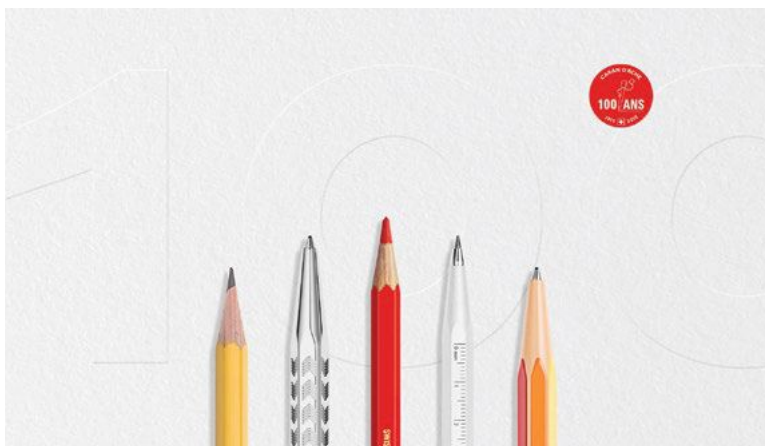


New Look

Add a splash of fun to your kitchen with Nespresso's Inissia coffee machine, now available in the vibrant colours of fuchsia velvet and pacific blue. To launch these new hues, local chef Willin Low of Wild Rocket fame created gourmet coffee recipes to pair with existing Nespresso coffee capsules. We like the Blue Oasis, a martini made with chocolate cream and coconut that combines brilliantly with the Rosabaya de Colombia, and the sinfully rich Red Velvet Kueh Buloh Tiramisu that goes with the Arpeggio. A recipe card set is complimentary with any purchase of an Inissia machine from now till the end of the month.

Available at Nespresso Boutiques or online at www.nespresso.com





CROSSING A MILESTONE

To celebrate its 100th anniversary, Caran d'Ache, the manufacturer of Swiss luxury art and writing instruments, has launched the 100 Years Anniversary Collection comprising five of its iconic products in new limited edition packaging.

Technograph (\$49): Set in a box of four, these graphite pencils come in varying grades and feature a modest, classic design.

Fixpencil (\$119): This was the first mechanical pencil with a patented clutch mechanism. Since its inception in 1929, it has affirmed its status as a Swiss cultural emblem by being featured on a postage stamp.

Prismo (\$110): Launched in 1931, it was the world's first water-soluble colour pencils and now comes in an exclusive assortment of 25 colours presented in an embossed paper pencil case.

Ecridor (\$299): Finely engraved with a chevron pattern, the ballpoint pen's hexagonal profile is coated in precious metals to give it that added sparkle.

849 (\$89): Dressed in the colours of Caran d'Ache for the anniversary collection, the 849's Goliath cartridge enables it to produce up to 600 A4 pages of smooth handwriting.

Available at Takashimaya Singapore, Aesthetic Bay at ION Orchard, FookHing Trading at Bras Basah Complex and RELAY at Changi Airport

ALL IN CONTROL

You won't need to worry about unreliable water temperatures anymore with Delta Faucet's Temp₂O Technology (\$267), a digital temperature display that indicates the water temperature precisely so you can adjust it to your desired levels. For easy visuals, the device also uses an LED colour indicator, where it changes from blue and magenta to red depending on the water temperature. It can be fixed on Temp₂O Technology showerheads, hand showers and tub showers.

Available at Equip Design and Home Niche Singapore



Man of The House

Every man cave needs a Dionysus. With its synthetic shaggy fur cover, this beanbag delivers comfort at all levels, while its deluxe design and elegant, dark colours evoke a masculinity that would fit right into any bachelor's pad. Designed by home-grown brand SoftRock Living, Dionysus is part of a collection of luxurious beanbags. Available in two sizes and colours.

For more information, visit www.softrockliving.com





SAVVY HELPER

If you own a small business or work from home, Canon's recently launched new Maxify printers – designed for high-volume printing, increased productivity and better cost savings – might be just what you need. We got to review the MB5370 (\$459), and found it a breeze to set up. Wi-Fi connectivity allowed printing via mobiles through an app, and you could also print directly via several cloud services including Dropbox and Google Drive. The MB5370 is the first in Canon's line-up of desktop inkjet printers to have a single-pass two-sided scan engine, allowing us to do duplex scanning at one go. Save for some blue hues, we found the colours were replicated quite closely to the originals. You can't print A3 sizes, but this set comes with two 250-sheet paper cartridges, so you don't have to keep topping up. Printing was fast too – printouts came out in less time than it took to cross the room. The ink cartridges can churn out 1,000 pages of monochrome sheets, and 700 pages in colour, but if you go for the optional XL high-yield cartridges, you can get up to 2,500 black-and-white prints and 1,500 in colour, supposedly reducing your cost by at least 50 per cent.

Available at major electronic stores

Trend Watch

SquareRooms headed to Malta from 23 to 26 April to attend the 10th annual IFA Global Press Conference, where we were given a preview of the largest consumer electronics and home appliances tradeshow. Industry bellwethers also shared insights on what to look out for in these two sectors. We bring you a summary of the trends:

1. Besides having bigger screens, more impressive colours and new forms like today's curved and ultra-slim designs, smart TVs will increasingly be able to not just receive television signals, but also content and services from the Net.
2. A wider range of smart watches and other wearable devices for health and fitness monitoring will be made available.
3. 3D printing is set to gain traction in the mass market.
4. The industry is looking towards recreating the cinematic sound effect for the home, using technologies such as 3D sound.
5. Different types of headphones will be developed to feed into the growing demand for listening to music on the go.
6. One of the buzz phrases for IFA 2015 is 'smart home'. The home network system will continue to expand and be made more intelligent. Connectivity is set to extend even to small home appliances.
7. Home appliances will continue to see improvements, particularly in these aspects: energy use, sustainability, operational efficiency and design.
8. Smartphones are becoming more than a communication tool, but their growth will be at the expense of products such as the compact camera, portable media player and portable car navigation system.

IFA 2015 will take place in Berlin, Germany from 4 to 9 September 2015





FROZEN DELIGHTS

Think uber-rich ice cream but denser – that's what frozen custards are all about. What you're essentially getting is a dessert that is very thick and creamy. Because of its low overrun (the increase in volume) and high butterfat content, there isn't a need to use a lot of sugar. Recently opened Density, Singapore's first frozen custard store, uses just half the amount found in regular frozen yogurts. We like the space – which veers towards hipster with an industrial setting of exposed brick and cement walls – but we like the flavours even more. We just couldn't decide between



the intense buttered popcorn and the delicate yet aromatic Madagascan vanilla bean.

**Located at 4 Short Street,
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Farm Fresh

Lollapalooza is not your typical farm-to-table restaurant. There are no rustic mismatched chairs, no reclaimed wood surfaces and no eclectic kitsch. What you get instead is a sophisticated setting in neutral hues defined by white marble, unstained beechwood and polished copper. The dining area is divided into two sections. There is an 8-metre-long communal table for dining reformatory-style. On the other side, a series of small tables and banquette seats offer more privacy. The menu changes daily, depending on what the chefs can find. Items are cooked in the open kitchen over a wood-fired oven which burns applewood all day long.

**Located at 1A Keong Saik Road, tel: 6221 3538,
www.lollapalooza.com.sg**



CHOCOLATE FANTASY

If the wafting aroma of cocoa doesn't entice you to step inside Cocoa Colony, the sight of its sleek metal taps dispensing rich chocolate sauces probably will. The cafe chain, known for its rich chocolate treats and beverages, opened its first outlet at Shaw Centre and has since expanded to Suntec City and The Cathay. It is set to launch two others at Star Vista and City Square Mall this month. Be sure to try the Amazonian Liquid Gold. The premium chocolate sauce dispensed from the taps, which comes in milk, dark and white variants, can be served as a beverage topping or a dip for other desserts.



STRANGE & wonderful

*Eclectic gin bar, Copper, challenges
curious visitors to expect more*

PHOTOS Copper



Pigeon a la Francaise

A reticent and rather mysterious tenant just moved in on Jiak Chuan Road, occupying the space where Oriole Coffee Roasters used to be. There's no name on the signboard, only its chemical moniker as listed on the periodic table – CU 29, which is quite a clever pun actually.

There's a fair amount of boldness needed to peek inside, as its perpetually closed doors and drawn drapes aren't exactly the most inviting sight. However, its owners – the same people behind The Oyster Bar at Customs House – tell us that they do this so people will enter instead of glance in and walk by. It's definitely a place to linger, as there's a lot to take in with the highly customised steampunk-esque design.

On the first floor – which houses a gin-centric bar with the largest selection of the spirit in Singapore – apothecary jars, insect displays and accordion lamps make you feel like you're in some old-time Victorian movie. Of course, copper, which is used to distill gin



(hence the watering hole's name) is prominently used throughout the space. It's on the walls of the bar, the ceiling, and it's even plated on drawer pulls, purposefully corroded to a specific shade of green that complements the Guatemalan marble bar counter.

Upstairs, Copper operates a more formal restaurant that serves up an omakase-style meat-focused menu. Reservations are required for dining here as the sunset-hued space, which features a showstopping Murano crystal chandelier, only seats 20. A slim island sits in the middle, scorched with a blowtorch to give the piece character – the same treatment was also used on the Japanese pine tabletops downstairs. Silk drapes cover the ceiling, making you feel like you're in a private and luxurious tent.



Many of the curios belonged to the owners or were sourced from places like Thailand.

Not surprisingly, the same attention to detail extends to the food and drinks. In the kitchen, there's an actual wood-burning oven to give dishes an authentic char. Drinks are also served in high-end Schott Zwiesel glasses as the owners believe good glasses are a necessity, like good sheets in a hotel.

It's easy to stay within your comfort zone, but chancing upon gems like these always spur you on to explore.



Char Siew Sliders



Some of the must-try bar snacks here include the lamb kaftas and mac and cheese balls. Copper also serves up a supper menu after midnight from Thursday to Saturday.

Copper
10 Jiak Chuan Road
Singapore 089864
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www.coppersingapore.com

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Image courtesy of Dulux

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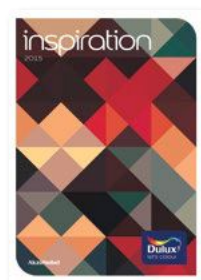
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4 OUT OF 5

consumers said they would recommend Dulux PureAir to friends*

Image courtesy of Dulux



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*Claims based on research conducted by Nielsen in 2014 against 'odourless' interior wall paint products in Singapore amongst 106 Singaporean adults.



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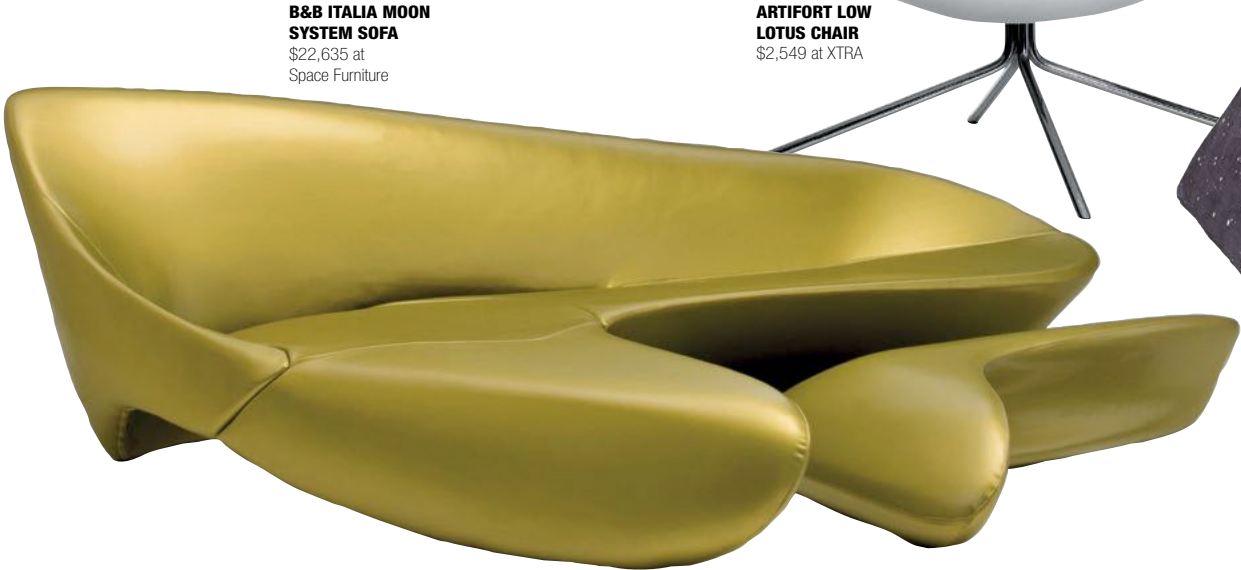
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WHIMSICAL wonderland

At Dreams and Confetti, a boutique reminiscent of Willy Wonka's magical chocolate factory, shoppers get their pick of cool and colourful party supplies

TEXT Cara Wong IMAGES Dreams and Confetti

Stepping into Dreams and Confetti brings to mind a confectionery with its soft pastel hues and pretty tableware all around. But candy is just one out of a multitude of items that the store sells. A one-stop party shop, it offers a curated range of decorations, baking essentials, tableware and other premium festive goods.

The shop is the brainchild of owners Audrey Lee and Grace Goh, who also helm local bakery The Little House of Dreams. They'd felt that there was a gap in the market for party materials, as there was no one shop where party items could be bought at a go. Hence, Dreams and Confetti was conceived.

The boutique offers plenty of inspiration to shoppers through its decor. A delicate vintage wagon sits in a corner, showcasing a selection of the store's goods, while a custom-made rotating ferris wheel stands tall in the centre of the shop. The child-friendly store even has a free mini candy bar for kids to enjoy.

The store has an extensive range of UK and US brands, including exclusive brands like Rosanna, an established tableware company. It will see new additions every month. Prices range from \$1.50 to \$200, so you can pick up lovely finds no matter your budget.



“ We like to think that every home (and every cake!) deserves an elegant cake stand. A beautiful handwritten card should accompany every gift, and every party should be spectacular, magical and unforgettable. ”

INSIDE STORY

- Dreams and Confetti is the exclusive local retailer of Sugarfina, a gourmet candy brand heralded as the “Tiffany & Co.” of candies.
- At a specially allocated bar, patrons can create their own confetti mix from pots holding different hues of the coloured paper.
- Prior to her recent ventures, Grace had helped develop the concept behind ThaiExpress with her husband, who was the CEO of the eatery chain.

1. The largely white background helps the colourful products stand out.

2. Fairy lights twirled around the wagon give it an extra dreamy feel.

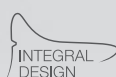
Great World City
#02-20C/D
tel: 6733 0320,
www.dreamsandconfetti.com





Gentle beauty

KLUDI AMBA is the very essence of a new aesthetic style. Softer contours and intuitive operation define the complete line of taps and accessories. Its sculptural appearance with sensory qualities and the unique KLUDI IntegralDesign make it simply uniquely beautiful.



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Partners Network:

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Tel: 6250 1368

Home & Bathroom
566 Balestier Road
Singapore 329883
Tel: 6253 4655

Sansei
462 Tagore Industrial Ave
Singapore 787831
Tel: 6292 8321

● KLUDI ●

HAPPY shopping

With its unique offerings, WEEKENDS aims to bring forth the excitement and feelings that our days off entail

TEXT Cara Wong IMAGES WEEKENDS

Meet the sister brand of lifestyle and gift chain, MONOYONO. While WEEKENDS stocks a similar collection of gifts, designer stationery, accessories, home furnishings and even fragrances, the products here are more geared toward the ladies.

Standing out amongst the other shops with its unique shop front – composed of wooden apothecary boxes piled high – the store, at VivoCity's newly expanded retail space, has a mostly monochromatic palette of black and white, making its eccentric mix of fun and colourful products pop.

Some products sold here include decor items from the Kate Spade New York Gifts and Stationery collection, and fashion accessories from Fiorelli, a leading accessory brand from UK. Of the 14 brands it currently carries, 12 are exclusively distributed by WEEKENDS in Singapore. Prices range from \$6.90 for a notebook to \$650 for ceiling lights.

INSIDE STORY

- WEEKENDS will be launching storewide discounts every long weekend in the near future.
- One of the popular brands here is Ban.do, an accessories label with an expanding celeb following including the likes of Emma Watson, Taylor Swift and Hilary Duff.
- The 12 exclusively distributed brands originate from either European countries or America and are new in Singapore.



“We want to spread feel-good vibes (through our products) and inspire people to do more of what makes them happy.”

*Benny Low,
Managing Director of Trendspot,
which owns WEEKENDS*



1. The kooky facade evokes a sense of fun even before you step in.

2. Sleek furniture prevents the strong decor and colourful wares from being overwhelming.

Vivocity #B1-10,
tel: 6376 8031,
www.weekends.com.sg

Patrizia Volpato™

Nuove forme di luce.



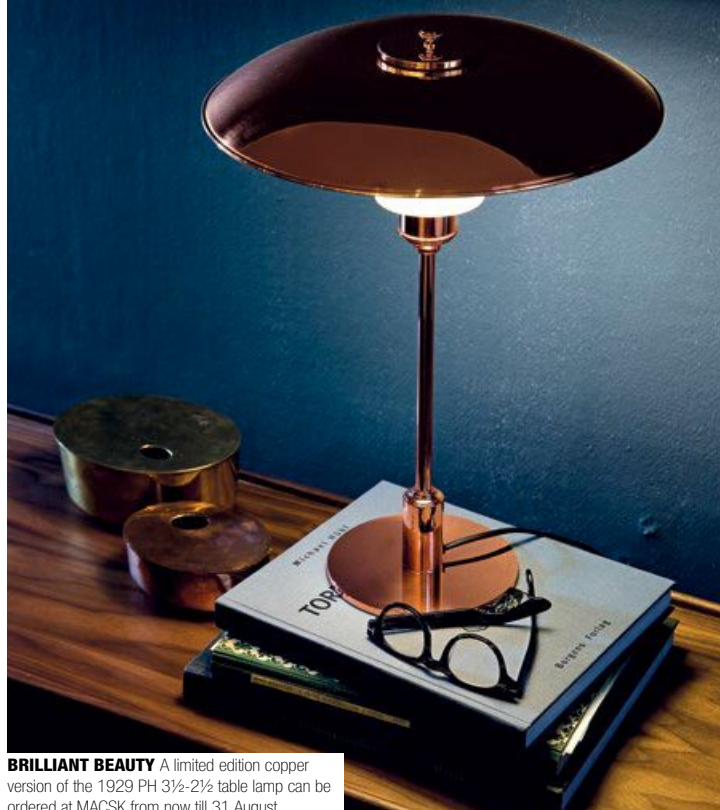
*Now you can have truly affordable luxury Italian lights.
All designed and hand-crafted in Venice, Italy.*



Ventinove
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Viewing by appointment only. Please call 93621920.
ventinove.pv@gmail.com

www.patriziavolpato.it



BRILLIANT BEAUTY A limited edition copper version of the 1929 PH 3½-2½ table lamp can be ordered at MACSK from now till 31 August.

What do you find most interesting about lighting?

You can create so many different atmospheres and settings. For example, you can create warm and cosy, intimate light for an exclusive restaurant or your home. You can create a festive atmosphere with colour-changing light, and with cool light, you can create a more serious mood.

How is lighting used differently in Danish homes compared to the rest of the world?

Our lighting level is quite low. Instead of brightening the whole room uniformly with downlights, we generally place light where we need it, without having any really dark corners. We often put lamps on the windowsill as we usually decorate our homes according to the daylight. We mostly place our couches, dining table and so on by the window. Like this, it is natural that we need artificial light at the same places we have daylight.

What are some good tips for using lighting successfully in a house?

Don't get the brightness too high, otherwise,



ULLA RIEMER

the light is only used for short periods – like in the bathroom or along the stairs – it's nonsensical to install them. They often take several minutes to warm up, so by the time they're at full power, you don't need them anymore.

Another thing about those bulbs is that the colour rendering is often poor. This means that if you are eating a nice steak in this light, it will look rather grey or brown, not red, as it actually is.

What are some things visitors should do if they come to Denmark?

If you dare, get a bike and ride through the city. You'll see more than if going by car or bus, you can stop whenever you like and you don't have to look

ULLA RIEMER, *Louis Poulsen's Head of Training & Development*

The lighting expert shares about her love for light, and how the Danes use it to create stylish homes

TEXT Yuen Yi Ying PHOTOS Louis Poulsen

CHIC AND VERSATILE
The Tolbod lamps come in various colour combinations to complement your theme.



you need more light to see specific things. Our brain and eyes can work with very little radiance, so make sure that you don't overdo the whole room.

Also, many people use energy-saving bulbs for economic reasons (and it's fine if they want to save energy), but if you use them in places where

for parking. Copenhagen is relatively small, so you can go anywhere by bike. Another thing that's really nice is to do a canal tour – you see a lot of lovely sights in just one hour. Tivoli Gardens is somewhat touristy, but also really nice with beautiful flowers, free concerts and shows. For lighting freaks, it will be interesting to peek into the windows of the Danes. You'll see that we have lots of low-hanging pendants, table lamps and light points, which give a very different atmosphere from what you usually have. The Louisiana Museum of Art is beautiful. It's in a large park with nice sculptures, trees, small lakes etc., all overlooking the sea, and in the background, you can see our neighbouring country, Sweden.



NEVER TOO OLD-FASHIONED OR MODERN Ulla loves the PH lamps for their beautiful and timeless look.

extremely
fashionable
furniture



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DOMO
ITALIA

CORIUM
ITALIA

Ly

sa
nd

EntuneLiving

grado



TAILORED SOLUTIONS The brand creates a lot of custom pieces and has decked out everything from homes to planes!

What does luxury mean to you?

In contemporary terms, it has two levels to me: one material and one spiritual.

In the first case, it is something very special that's given to you, something unique and not found anywhere. It can be a beautiful made-in-Italy Visionnaire object, or an amazing one-of-a-kind project from our brand. It can also be an emotional state of grace – contemplating an art work, enchanting architecture, or the wild nature...

Under your leadership, the business has moved into markets like Russia, China and the Middle East, and the brand has grown 25 per cent year-on-year. What do you think are some reasons for its success?

Throughout the last decade, Visionnaire has become known for its unique designs and aristocratic flair, but our made-in-Italy brand has grown beyond simple furnishings to providing bespoke furnishing solutions. We create customised interior atmospheres to fit a customer's personal needs, style and taste.

Visionnaire's home philosophy speaks of a new way to regard furnishing, which is not strictly linked to the product, but to a way of

living and how the furniture will be used within its owner's lifestyle. This vision has been the driving force behind increased global demand for the brand and the company's worldwide expansion.

What has been the best design advice given to you?

My family gave me the best advice, "Don't follow anyone, create followers!" Through this motto, I must say, Visionnaire has gained a global luxury leading reputation.

What was the last thing you bought?

An art work – a beautiful Olivier Roller photo art work from our latest Wunderkammer Visionnaire Exhibition.

What makes you happy?

My family... Monica, my wife, and my two sons, Michele, 10 years old, and Anna Futura, three years old.

LEOPOLD CAVALLI, CEO of Visionnaire

His grandfather and great uncle started the company and his father started taking the business global. But under his guidance, the luxury brand, best known for its dramatic designs, truly took off in the international scene

TEXT Yuen Yi Ying PHOTOS Visionnaire



FROM THE GROUND UP Having worked for the family business since he was 19, the 41-year-old became the company's CEO in 2000.



LIVE LIKE A KING Many of the brand's furnishings have ornate and bold designs.

Hot reads from KEY EDITIONS



High-style living with fresh ideas,
expert advice and practical solutions
www.squarerooms.com.sg



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KEY EDITIONS PTE LTD

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TIDY SOLUTIONS

Be it store-bought or custom-built, there's a storage option to contain every category of clutter

TEXT Disa Tan

1



for the exhibitionist

We get it; you love your stuff. And you want to be able to admire it and show it off. It could be the everyday necessities like your sunnies or frivolous stuff like that vintage camera collection you've been proudly amassing. When it comes to showcasing things of your pride and joy, you'd want to find the perfect display shelf to project them in the best light. From regular bookshelves to designated display cases, here are some pretty perfect options to house your collections.



1 GLASS CABINET WITH LEGS

Swathed in a soft grey hue, the simple lines on this wooden piece have a light, ethereal touch. Even though the price is rather steep, trust us when we say this will be an endearing piece which will appreciate in character as time goes by.

From \$2,481.80 (12,439DKK) at Oliver Furniture

2 RADIAL WALL SHELF

Great for displaying smaller knick-knacks like vintage toys, the unique oriental form of this 100 per cent powder-coated iron steals the limelight every time.

Retailing online from \$251.42 (US\$189) at The Land of Nod

3 Z RACK BOOKCASE

The unexpected zigzag outline of this oak bookcase creates a strong visual statement, which makes it perfect as a display showcase or room divider.

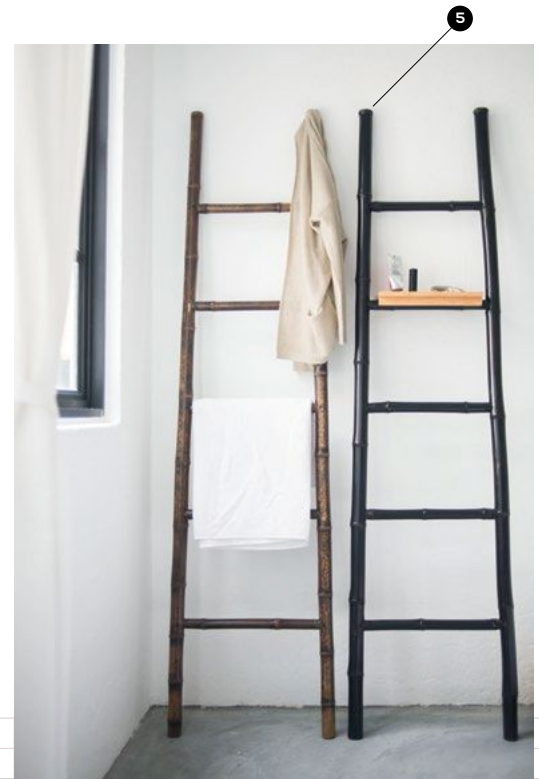
\$2,225 at Ethnicraft

4 ASSORTED SHOE RACKS

Looking for an effortless way to showcase your favourite footwear? These space-saving hanging shoe racks, suitable for stilettos or regular shoes, could be the answer.

From \$102.69 (£50) at J-me





1 **BLACK STORAGE BENCH**

What's there not to like about storage benches? Beside seating people and stashing away stuff that won't see the light of day, the leather tabs on this bench are just gorgeous.

*From \$1,115.10 (\$5,589DKK)
at Oliver Furniture*

2 **ARC WALL HOOK & SHELF**

Hanging and storing stuff has never been easier with a versatile hook like this.

3 **MOSAIC COFFEE TABLE**

Tilt the cool hexagon wooden table to form different configurations ranging from coffee table, accent table to a corner shelf.

\$309.23 at Comfort Design

4 **OAK WAVE CONSOLE**

Great as a hallway console or a compact workstation, this is a must-have piece for every small home.

\$1,150 at Ethnicraft

5 **BAO BAMBOO LADDER BY SCENE SHANG**

Bamboo products are built to last, and so is this lacquer-treated ladder which will look good on any wall.

6 **FUWL CAGE SHELF BY MENU**

The bottom of this minimalistic 'floating' shelf serves as an amazing catch-all for many storage possibilities.

\$215 at Grafunkl



kids' corner

Like growing children, the things your tykes acquire seem to multiply by the minute. Are toys, books and bits and pieces taking over your home? If you have a clutter infestation problem, invest in storage pieces which will appeal to the little ones. You can put the 'fun' in 'functional' with these and cleaning their room won't be a dreaded chore for the kids no more!



1 X MARKS THE BOOK CADDY

Lead your kid to treasure island with this X-shaped bookcase. It's not only at a good eye level for your little one, the open niches also offer room for their toys as well.

From \$131.56 (US\$99) at The Land of Nod

2 CUPCAKE STOOL

Turn these cute stackable stools upright and you get a sweet storage compartment for all those pesky toys.

\$95.23 each, at Comfort Design

3 TOY BOX

In a versatile shade of white, the removable boxes on this module are lightweight enough for a child to lift it and manage their toy stash.

From \$478.64 (2,399DKK), at Oliver Furniture

office helpers

Let's be honest; a disorganised workstation will not promote the most productive environment. But when it gets busy, it's hard to keep tabs on the mess. Having the right storage units for your office supplies can help. At least, it'll keep all your working tools in order. Putting in the effort to organise your work desk on a regular basis is another way to declutter, but that is another story.



1 AC-CENT KIBAKO SHELVES

From A4 files to tiny push pins, these modular shelves are up for anything.

From \$380 per unit at atomi

2 PIROUETTE BOOKRACK BY MR.MARIUS

This beautiful bookcase boasts closed and open compartments built just for your office supplies and more.

\$1,455 at Ethnicraft



3 PP STORAGE

This collection comprises frosted white plastic drawers in various sizes and a rolling storage cart. Everything you need to make workspace organisation an easier task.

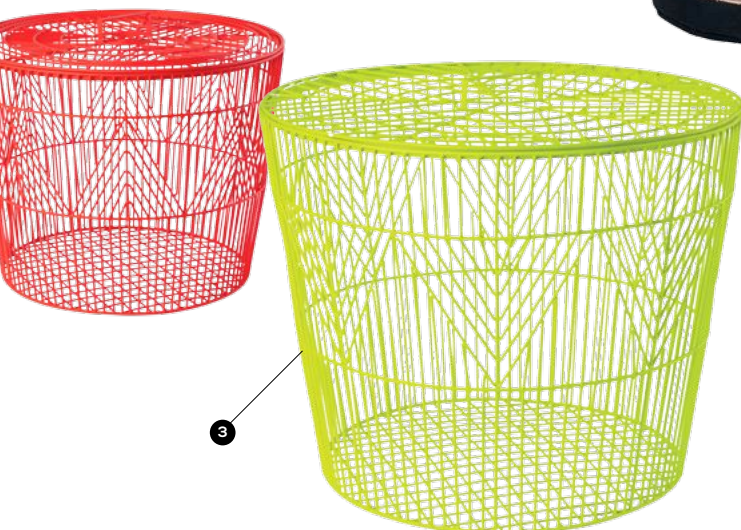
From \$3.90 to \$99 at Muji





bins, baskets & boxes

Bins, baskets and boxes are like the unsung heroes of storage. It offers a fuss-free solution to squirrel away your stuff for good – that is, until the clutter starts to overflow. One golden rule of buying this type of lightweight storage is to always choose something that matches your overall decor. That way, the receptacle itself won't stick out like a sore thumb.



1 BALCOLORE BASKET BY HACHIMAN

Made of plastic, we love how the rope handles of this basket offer a good grip while you tote or tug it out to locate stuff.

From \$24 to \$44 (three assorted sizes) at [atomi](#)

2 BARRET BASKET WITH LID

Put a lid on your bursting clutter with these soft and pliable baskets in chic monochrome hues.

\$99.95 (set of two) at [HomesToLife](#)

3 GOOD VIBE LARGE FLOOR BIN

The kitschy neon tones are just what a vintage or industrial-themed home needs to jazz things up.

From \$100.49 (US\$75.62) each (two assorted colours and sizes) at [The Land of Nod](#)

behind closed doors

The mystery of storage behind doors has such a beguiling factor that it appeals to many local homeowners. Hidden storage can lurk in the most unexpected spots like underneath the platform bed, bench seat or the most common of all, behind laminate-clad walls. These are usually custom-built units which can start from \$1,500 for a standard 5-foot, full-height cabinet. If you want your home to have a seamless, uniform style, this will be your best bet.



Design: Distinct Identity



Design: Fuse Concept



Design: Distinct Identity

1 HIDDEN STORAGE

To access the concealed storage space, the overlay of tile-like accents on this cabinet door serve as handles.

2 SHOE CABINET

Shoe storage with a twist. The interesting herringbone patterns on the shoe cabinet's facade offer a strong design statement.

3 TV WALL

When shut, the sliding doors of this hideaway entertainment console become an outstanding feature wall.

STYLE+



DEDAL BOOKSHELF

\$475 each at Danish Design

GET PACKING

Make organisation more
enjoyable with fun storage options!

TEXT & COORDINATION Ho Pei Ying





**MONTANA
MODULAR
SHELVING**
price upon request
at Danish Design



**BABEL
BOOKCASE**
\$1,710 at XZQT



**ALPHABET
CABINET**
\$1,150 at Originals



SPINNY DRAWER
\$2,518 at Lifestorey



**BEL AMI
BOOKCASE**
\$1,210 at Fred
Lives Here



SENDING ANIMALS CABINET
from \$1,238 at Fred Lives Here



CACTUS COAT RACK
\$149.95 at CB2



SPRUTT CABINET
\$159 at IKEA



LESEFUTTER BOOK RACK
\$930 at Lifestorey



MARIE ANTOINETTE POP CABINET
\$5,402 at Lifestorey



RUBEN COAT RACK
price upon request
at Lifestorey



**GALAVANISED
ROLLING
TOTE BIN**
\$99 at CB2



**AURA
SIDEBOARD 132**
\$3,770 at Grafunkt



**YELLOW
PANTONE
WALLSTORE**
\$69 at Fred
Lives Here



**PENTHOUSE
BOOKCASE**
\$2,399 at
Danish Design

THE NEW. *classics*

You might've seen these around, and you'll be seeing more of them in time to come. Have a seat and get to know these emerging stars, set to be the next icons of the furniture scene

TEXT & COORDINATION Ho Pei Ying



TOWARD

The Toward sofa can be used as an armchair, chaise longue and a tete-a-tete. Conceptualised by Danish designer Anne Boysen, it allows for multiple ways of lounging thanks to the two loose and interchangeable cushions on its seat.

From \$5,978 at Danish Design





SETS OF LEGS WERE DONE
TO TEST FOR PRACTICALITY
AND AESTHETICS BEFORE
SETTLING FOR THESE ONES.
BESIDES THE OAK VENEER
LEGS SHOWN HERE, YOU
CAN ALSO GO WITH CHROME
OR MATTE-BLACK WITH A
LACQUERED FINISH.

OTTAWA

Taking after shapes found in nature, the Ottawa chair has a leaf-like form with legs that look like a forest of trees. The piece is named after the capital city of Canada, where designer Karim Rashid graduated and began his career in design. Karim intended the details to be soft and sensual to contrast against the austerity of contemporary chairs today.

From \$295 at BoConcept

30

THE NUMBER OF
YEARS KARIM HAS
BEEN IN DESIGN.
LAUNCHING THE
OTTAWA ON THIS
MILESTONE PAID
HOMAGE, IN A
WAY, TO HIS LONG
DESIGN CAREER.

SHOP

3D

PLYWOOD WAS USED TO
CONSTRUCT THE CHAIR.
THIS SPECIAL MATERIAL
HAS A CHARACTERISTIC
THAT ALLOWS IT TO BE
CURVED ALONG TWO
AXES DURING THE
MOULDING PROCESS.



1st

DREAM IS THE FIRST
CHAIR IN PRODUCTION
FOR THE JAPANESE
ARCHITECT.

160^{kg}

IS THE MAXIMUM
AMOUNT OF WEIGHT
THE CHAIR CAN HOLD.

DREAM

Japanese architect Tadao Ando created the Dream lounge chair for Carl Hansen & Son as a tribute to renowned Danish chair designer Hans J. Wegner. He wanted to create a piece of furniture that encouraged people to take more time to dream. Its floating structure evokes a calming vibe, while the adjustable neck support and organic curves make it conducive for ample reflection on the chair. Also available in fabric or leather upholstery.

From \$8,030 at Space Furniture



100%
OF THE CHAIR
IS PRODUCED IN
PLASTIC, IN TRUE
KARTELL FASHION.

CLAP

Functional and understated can be used to describe the Clap Chair by Patricia Urquiola for Kartell. It pairs an upholstered seat with a simple nylon frame. Choose the solid fabric or if you're feeling a bit more daring, the funky hexagon-embossed one. Clap comes in a wide variety of colour combinations.

From \$845 at Lifestorey

SHOP

25k

ADELAIDE
CHAIRS ARE SOLD
ACROSS ALL
BOCONCEPT STORES
INTERNATIONALLY
PER YEAR.

ADELAIDE

BoConcept is set to reveal the Adelaide chair as one of the brand's leading designer chairs. Designed by Henrik Pedersen, its rounded form takes after the curvy lines of an acorn. Adelaide is very customisable with over 100 different upholstery choices, but the bestseller is the classic white oak version. The chairs on this page are upholstered in a sophisticated caramel Colorado leather – a more masculine take on the Adelaide.

From \$345 at BoConcept

5

PROTOTYPES
WERE DONE
BEFORE THE
FINAL TUSK.

4

BOLTS WERE
USED TO PUT
THE CHAIR
TOGETHER.

20%

OF THE CHAIR IS MADE
OF METAL, MOST
NOTABLY FOUND IN ITS
TWO FRONT LEGS. THE
REST OF TUSK IS MAINLY
MADE OF OAK.

TUSK

One of Commune's bestsellers, the Tusk chair was inspired by the industrial and rustic designs of Melbourne architecture. It was named after a Tusk Cafe located in the Australian city's Chapel Street, where designer Julian Koh sketched his designs over coffee. Available as a side chair or an armchair, in brown fabric or black leather.

From \$449 at Commune



PIECE OF
POLYCARBONATE WAS
USED TO MAKE UNCLE
JO THROUGH A SINGLE-
MOULD INJECTION
TECHNOLOGY, JUST
LIKE THE REST OF THE
PIECES IN THE RANGE.

UNCLE JO

The Uncle Jo chair is part of Philippe Starck's Aunts and Uncles collection for Kartell. The inspiration for this family of tables and chairs was derived by the designer's childhood memory of his aunts and uncles gathered around the fireplace to tell stories, knit and smoke pipe.

Price upon application at Lifestorey



3

TYPES OF CUSHION SIZES
ARE AVAILABLE FOR HUSK. THE
ONES WE SEE HERE ARE THE
VERY LARGE CUSHIONS VARIANT
– PROVIDING THE ULTIMATE
COMFORTABLE SEATING
EXPERIENCE.

HUSK

“Those who look at a sofa must visually perceive a sense of both mental and physical comfort,” says designer Patricia Urquiola of Husk, the armchair she designed for B&B Italia. Comprising a hard exterior shell made of plastic, it is padded with soft cushions stitched together. The idea for Husk came from Patricia’s desire to be surrounded by pillows.

From \$2,515 at Space Furniture

SIMPLE

little fun touches

These coasters add a whimsy and lighthearted touch to any dining table

TEXT Yuen Yi Ying STYLING Neo Aik Sing & Yuen Yi Ying
CRAFTWORK Neo Aik Sing & Khaili Teoh
PHOTOGRAPHY Justin Loh
LOCATION, FOOD & DRINKS The Lab SG



SWIRLING AROUND

You can make a few of these whirls in a jiffy, and you can make them as big as you want to suit different implements.

Coil twine around itself, dabbing superglue along the way until you reach your desired size. Afterwards, leave the ends out for a quirky look, or glue them in for a neater appearance.

*Pictured: Hand Cut Sweet Potato
Chips and Cafe Latte*

SIMPLE

NOVEL ACCENTS

It's easy to play around with funky patterns and textures tastefully if they're kept to small pieces. These were cut out from stiff felt mats instead of their floppy cousins so they look better, are more durable and water resistant.



SWEET STACKS

These mini wood pallets are cute and inexpensive to make. We simply sawed timber strips and square dowels to size, then assembled them with superglue. Plus side: these will look even better with time and usage.

COOL FRAMES

Turn your favourite shots into Polaroid-inspired coasters. Print images on photo paper, glue them onto a chipboard with Mod Podge, then spray two coats of sealer to safeguard and waterproof your creation.

Pictured: Heisenberg drink and Classic Carrot Cake

ALL CAPS

Besides using empty jars as vases and candleholders, you can use their lids as cup holders too. We lined these with cork sheets that have been stamped to add an extra level of visual detail.

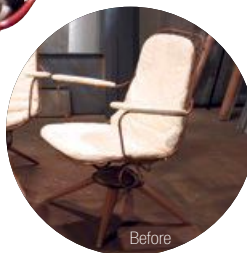
OLD STUFF, NEW TRICKS

Give old furniture a makeover with proper refurbishment. It'll transform your home instantly!

TEXT Lisa Twang



A vintage English folding tea cart gets a fresh coat of teal paint, while a mid-century chair is reupholstered in a snazzy fabric. These projects were shown on HGTV's *Flea Market Flip* (Scripps Networks). Season 2 starts 6 June, and airs on StarHub channel 437 every Saturday, 11am.



Think all furniture has to be brand new? Watch refurbishment shows like HGTV's *Flea Market Flip*, and you'll definitely think again.

Old bookcases can be dressed up with coats of pastel paint and some clever stencilling. Rocking chairs can be repainted and reupholstered for that retro chic vibe. Even changing the doorknobs of wardrobes can have a transformative effect.

All you need is some old furniture, a proper workspace, tools and the proper know-how to make it happen.

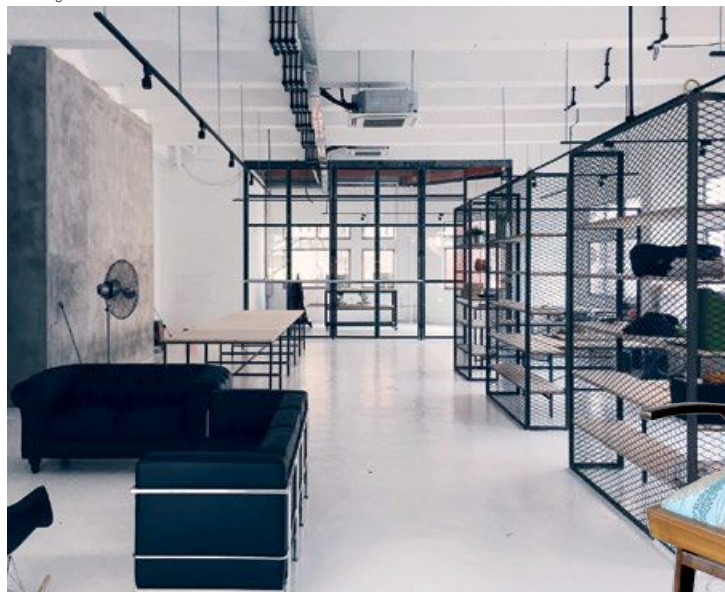
Get Crafty

Eager for a change from the ubiquity of bulk-buy furniture, more people are making



The Refinery

The Refinery rents out workspaces for various types of craftwork, including furniture restoration.



over old pieces to create something one-of-a-kind. For others, it could also be about breathing new life into inherited pieces with sentimental value, says Sharifah Maznah Syed Omar, owner of Second Charm.

"We're definitely seeing a rise of craft culture in Singapore," says Poh Wenxiang, an industrial designer and co-founder of Make Your Own. "We've had a lot of success with workshops we organise for the public, teaching them techniques they can incorporate into other crafts like furniture refurbishment."

For instance, Make Your Own recently organised a workshop teaching participants to make their own copper lamps. The bonding techniques learnt can be used to customise table frames with copper, with supporting timber or plywood on top.

But if you don't feel up to the task, you can always leave the refurbishing to the experts. Just note that the service is usually not cheap as few can do it well, says Sharifah. Giving some ballpark figures, she shares that restoration of

“Restoring furniture belonging to grandparents or parents is a way of saving and valuing memories of their loved ones.”

*Sharifah Maznah,
owner of Second Charm*

a small side coffee table is \$150, while a retro 1960s armchair costs around \$250. Dressers are about \$450 while two-door wardrobes range around \$600. For traditional Peranakan pieces, the price can be over a thousand dollars, especially if they have elaborate carvings or gold-leafed finishings.

It might sound steep, but you'll definitely be getting good value for your money. "It's not easy to do projects like this," says Wenxiang. "You need the space to sand wood, reupholster fabrics, and so on."

David Ditcham, founder of Barossa Furnishings, agrees. "My entire business is restoring furniture, and it is extremely involved work," says David. "For people to do their



A pair of vintage armchairs is reupholstered in floral patterned fabric.



A writing bureau was restored to working condition.



own restoration, they will need a workshop, power tools, lacquers, colours, and varnishes, and a ventilator extractor system. They will also require knowledge of carpentry and finishing processes.”

And because most Singaporeans live in apartments, it may not be practical, or safe, for them to do full furniture restorations themselves.

“Because of the amount of dust created in sanding preparation, and the use of varnishes and lacquers, home restoration

is not recommended, particularly with children around,” David advises.

Even without a workshop of your own, it’s possible to rent a workspace if you feel up to tackling a personal restoration project.

The Refinery, at Jalan Besar, rents out workspaces starting at \$300 per month, including drinks, snacks, and Wi-Fi access. Home-Fix houses an XPC workshop at its headquarters, offering workspace rental at \$20 per day or \$120 per month.



WHERE TO FIND

Make Your Own

www.makeyourown.sg

Blk 4 Upper Aljunied Lane,
#01-06, Singapore 360004
(by appointment only)

Barossa Furnishings

www.barossasingapore.com
barossafurnishings@gmail.com
Tel: 9664-8451

280 Woodlands Industrial
Park E5, Block 2, #09-02,
Singapore 757322

The Refinery

www.therefinery.sg
hello@greatergood.com.sg
Tel: 6293-0461

115 King George’s Ave
Singapore 208561

The Woodwork Initiative

gregswyny@gmail.com

Jazz It Up By Jann

www.jazzitupbyjann.blogspot.sg
jazzitupbyjann@gmail.com
Tel: 9747 3298

Save Money: and the Earth

Whether you have a piece of old furniture passed down from your family, or purchase it at a second-hand market, you can get more bang for your buck by restoring it, rather than buying a brand new piece.

However, restoring furniture doesn't always mean you'll save money. It depends on the quality of furniture you have, according to Jann Chan, founder of furniture and upholstery company Jazz It Up by Jann.

"It's a misconception that reupholstering is always the cheaper option," says Jann. "Remember that you're paying for labour and

fabric costs. If your couch is a good quality one, it's worth the investment; but if not, you may be better off buying a mass-market brand couch."

It's also more eco-conscious to find ways to recycle our old furniture, as discarded pieces often end up in the incinerator as waste.

"Generally, there's more awareness now that recycling is important," says Greg Swyny, founder of The Woodwork Initiative, which specialises in carpentry and restoration projects.

"In our grandmothers' time, there was a general sense of 'out with the old and in



A bench created using plywood and copper pipes.

Make Your Own



Beautify your walls with a copper pipe installation. But have it do double duty by incorporating a plywood display shelf and lamps!

Make Your Own

refurbishing checklist

When purchasing pre-owned furniture...



✓ **High quality hardwood pieces, like maple and oak**
These are more expensive, but durable.

✓ **Metal furniture made from aluminium or wrought iron**
These are higher-quality metals. When the item is properly repainted, it can transform the piece instantly.

✓ **Items you can inspect personally**
Even online listings should allow you to see the piece up close before purchase, so you can test it out for any flaws. Don't buy just based on photos online, as you may be missing out on important details.



✗ **Cheap woods like medium-density fibreboard and lumber**
They're less lasting, as they can't withstand weight and pressure over long periods of time.

✗ **Furniture that's too rusty, especially at the joints**
Some rust can be removed, but the process can be painstaking, so try to save yourself a lengthy restoration job.

✗ **Items that show signs of bed bugs: reddish smears, or mysterious black spots**
Don't be afraid to shine a flashlight into narrow openings, and check for bugs with a magnifying glass. Upholstered items, such as couches, are more likely to house these pesky parasites.

with the new', as people were leaning towards modernisation. However, there is now more value placed on vintage furniture and antiques. People want to see their family heirlooms or old furniture restored to their former glory."

Ultimately, the joy of restoring furniture means you'll be left with a truly unique piece – and the sky's the limit when it comes to personalising.

"Some of my customers reupholster couches and choose one colour for one arm, and a different colour for the other!" says Jann. "It's really up to you to make it your own."



A dining chair is reupholstered in a bright, turquoise fabric by Jann of Jazz It Up.

Redoing your sofa

Fixing up chairs is one of the most popular requests, so how much can you expect to pay?

Depending on the fabric chosen, a three-seater sofa costs upwards of \$700 to reupholster, and the price can run into the thousands for larger pieces and more premium fabrics.

For wooden furniture, a simple varnishing and touch-up job costs about \$200, with more complex restoration projects costing up to \$3,000 or more, depending on the type of wood and complexity of the job.



An old rattan sofa is given a new lease of life in leather.



bargain hunter

From markets to apps, look no further for the best second-hand furniture finds

Praisehaven Mega Family Thrift Store

500 Upper Bukit Timah Road

Tel: 6275 5877

www.salvationarmy.org/singapore/red_shield_industries

Known for: Family furniture for a good cause

Run by the Salvation Army, this social enterprise sells donated furniture, including dining sets, sofas and wardrobes here. Prices start from around \$50, and you can purchase a dining set with six chairs for \$360. Items are reduced by 10 per cent if they remain unsold after one month, and transport costs start from \$60.

Hock Siong & Co.

153 Kampong Ampat

Tel: 6281 8338

www.facebook.com/hocksiongco

Known for: Preloved hotel furniture at bargain prices

With impressive pieces from local hotel chains, this warehouse stocks everything from fancy partition panels to garden furniture. They can even customise furniture for you at an extra cost, repainting chairs or reupholstering fabrics. Transportation is free if you spend above \$300, and you can even pay by credit card on the spot.

Sungei Road Thieves' Market

Sungei Road and Jalan Besar Road

Known for: Small furniture and antique curios

Despite its no-frills setup (items are laid out on mats, and vendors' stalls are closely crowded together), this market is a treasure trove of finds. Pick up smaller furniture pieces like stools and tiny display cabinets here, as well as vintage telephones and knick-knacks. Sadly, it's due to be cleared out by 2017, so visit while you still can.

Expat Auctions

Level 1, Unit 1, Citilink Warehouse Complex,

102F Pasir Panjang Road

www.expatauctions.com.sg

Known for: Quality furniture sourced from homes, furniture stores and display homes.

With weekly auctions at their warehouse, Expat Auctions stocks large pieces of furniture like sofas and dining sets, as well as lamps and Asian artefact. See what's up for sale at their Facebook page, then register online for their auctions in advance.

Carousell

www.carousell.com

Available on the iTunes and Google Play app stores.

Known for: A variety of second-hand goods, including furniture

A peer-to-peer marketplace to rival eBay and Gumtree, Carousell makes buying and selling personal items easy with its mantra: Snap, list, sell. Its mobile device browsing format makes it easy to look up items on the go, and you can also browse items on its website.

JOIN NOW!

SQUAREROOMS
HOME
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2015

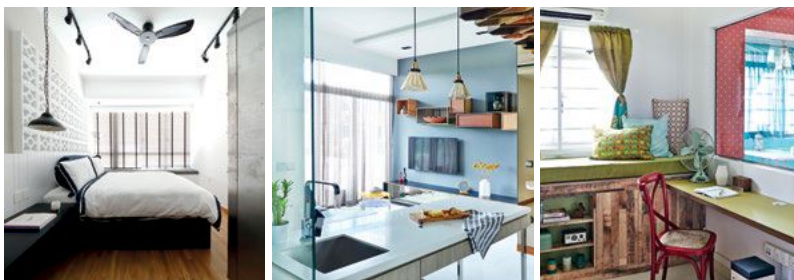


Do you have a stylish home?

Share your design concept with us, and stand a chance to have your house featured in the magazine! Attractive prizes await!

HOW TO JOIN?

- 1 Submit a minimum of four high-resolution images, along with a short description of the design to **contest@key-editions.com**
- 2 Include your personal details: full name, NRIC number, contact number and home address in the email



Submit your entry by 16 August 2015 to WIN!

Visit www.squarerooms.com.sg for more details

1

**PILE ON
THE LAYERS**

Make your seat a whole lot more inviting by layering on plush throws and cushions. For the best visual effect, use materials with varied textures.

Cate Throw & Cushion from Adventino, \$252 and \$90.80 (£125, £45) respectively



WEEKEND REVAMPS

**Thinking of sprucing up your place?
These no-reno ideas let you
transform your home in a jiffy**

TEXT Yuen Yi Ying



2

**DITCH UNSIGHTLY
CLUTTER**

Get rid of bulky and ugly boxes. Instead, pour out pantry staples like beans, pasta and cereal into these chic, air-tight canisters.

Canisters with gold lids, \$37-49 (£25-33) from Bloomingville

3

HANG A MOBILE

These cute spinning birds make every day seem a bit more carefree.

Snug Songbirds by snug.studio, \$64 from Naitise



4

BE UNEXPECTED

Woven wall hangings are getting quite popular. For a unique way to display one, use it as a textured headboard.

Macrame Wall Hanging Bedhead, \$1,027 (A\$980) from Eco Chic



5

REPURPOSE OLD FURNITURE

Once in a while, rearrange your furnishings to add a sense of newness to the place. You could also find different functions for existing pieces, like using stools or benches as display and side tables.

Bloomingville



SOLUTIONS

CREATE IMPACT

Pick a statement print that will infuse your space with bold and vibrant energy.

*Blue Eustoma Gown
Photography Print
by Love Limzy,
\$16 at Natiise*

6



BRIGHTEN UP WITH STYLE

Perk up your room with a sunny lampshade. This multifaceted one looks good from every angle.

*Gemmy Prisma Suspension
— Gold by SLAMP, \$459
from HipVan*



7



8

MAKE IT POP

If you want to make your wall more dynamic, opt for three-dimensional decorative pieces like these birds in flight.

*Bird wall decoration,
\$25 each at BoConcept*

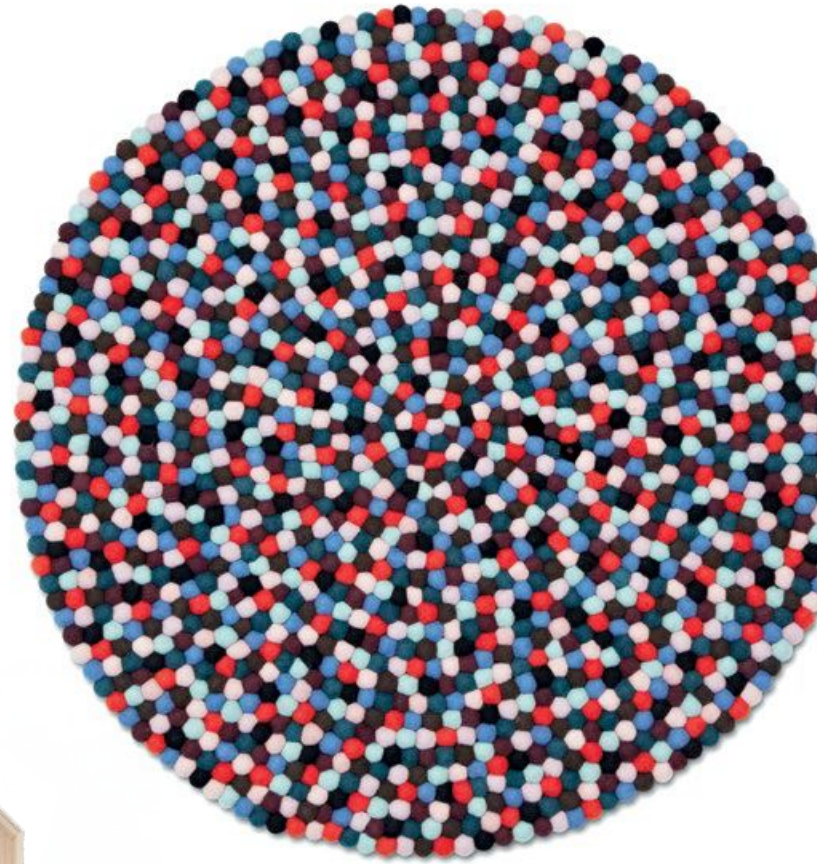




9 STRING UP SOME BUNTING

They're available in all patterns and colours to add that little visual perk to any room.

Bloomingville



11 LAY OUT A COOL RUG

These soft pieces make your space feel more cosy and lived-in than anything else can.

Pinocchio rug from Hay

10



STACK UP YOUR RANDOM BOXES

If you've been buying beautiful boxes but don't know what to do with them, pile them up to create your own unique modular shelving.

Bloomingville

12

REFRESH YOUR BOOKCASES

Place removable wallpaper against the back of your shelves for a peek of colour and pattern when the cupboard is filled with items. To remove the covering easily, apply gentle heat (a hairdryer helps) to soften the adhesive. If taken off carefully, you could even reuse the paper.

Caleidoscope Pattern Self-Adhesive Removable Wallpaper M203, from \$45 (US\$34) for a 20.9" x 48" sheet at Livettes (Etsy)



TWEAK THE FAMILIAR

Cut at an angle, these rectangular hooks make you look twice.

Iso Hook from Hay



14

SWITCH UP YOUR FLOORS

Other than regular tiles, you can add pattern with easy to maintain and removable PVC adhesive sheets.

Around the Wall PVC floor tiles

what do you want
YOUR DREAM HOME
to look like?

Tell us your thoughts for a
free design plan from one of our
interior design associates!



Visit bit.do/SquareRoomsID or
www.squarerooms.com.sg
to learn more



BLOOMING TRADE

If you thought floristry was a stuffy industry, meet these ladies: young, cool, talented and flooding the scene with brilliant new ideas

TEXT Lisa Twang & Ho Pei Ying



Josephine Lau

AGE: 26

COMPANY AND SITE: Floral Magic,
www.floralmagic.com.sg

NO. OF YEARS AS A FLORIST: 3

SIGNATURE STYLE: I wouldn't say I have one.

Everyone's look is borrowed from nature, or from someone they admire. Also, as florists, we have to understand and execute different styles for various clients and occasions.

WHY DO YOU THINK YOUNG PEOPLE ARE GETTING INTO THE TRADE?

I feel that it's a part of the growing trend where you also see an increase in the number of young cafe owners, bakers and such. I think it's because people don't want to be subjected to a 9 to 5 routine. But older florists still have a place in the industry. They have skills and experience, which we will take years to amass, if at all.



tips!

When creating modern floral arrangements...

DO:

■ **THINK SIMPLE BUT DRAMATIC.** Start with vases that have a narrow opening and that flare outwards at the base – they are easier to fill. Choose stalks with a single flower and leaf, but make the arrangement voluminous. That will easily create a natural and elegant look.

■ **CONSIDER FLOWER CHOICES TO HELP YOUR ARRANGEMENT LAST.** Go for blooms with thicker, more succulent petals and harder stems. They have better longevity. Some examples include lily, anthurium, ginger, and chrysanthemum to name a few. If you prefer a softer, more romantic look, eustomas, alstroemerias and darker coloured hydrangeas can last four to five days with daily trimming and changes of water.



DON'T:

■ **GO FOR CLICHE COMBIS.** A good visual pairing are roses with alstroemerias, chrysanthemums with eustomas. You can also try a mixture of long flowers such as matthiolas and delphiniums or go for different orchid types in a single colour scheme.

■ **BE TOO 'SAFE' WITH PLACEMENTS.** Common spaces to display arrangements are entrances or foyers, living and dining rooms. However, any area where there's no direct sunlight is suitable. For example, the bathroom is a nice but unexpected place to hold fresh flowers.

Melissa Wang

AGE: 34

COMPANY AND SITE: Shop Wonderland,
www.shop-wonderland.com

NO. OF YEARS AS A FLORIST: 3

SIGNATURE STYLE: Emotive and natural

WHY DO YOU THINK YOUNG PEOPLE ARE GETTING INTO THE TRADE?

Flowers are an essential element of any interior aesthetic, such as events, weddings and homes. With their wide exposure to beautiful aesthetics through social media, an increasing number of young people are developing more discerning tastes.

Floral arrangements are a form of creative expression, and developing a style is a personal process much like painting. I believe the creative expression is the key appeal to the trade, particularly for young people.



tips!

When creating modern floral arrangements...

DO:

■ **GO FOR CONTRAST.** Take note of the pairing of textures and colours.

■ **THINK OUT OF THE BOX.** Challenge yourself to create interesting arrangements with common flowers.

DON'T:

■ **COPY.** Use references as a source of inspiration.

■ **APPROACH ARRANGEMENTS TOO SYSTEMATICALLY.** Build your visual story as you arrange.





Jaclyn Lim

AGE: 32

COMPANY AND SITE:

The Bloom Room,
www.bloomroom.sg

NO. OF YEARS AS A FLORIST: 4

SIGNATURE STYLE: An organic blend of quirky blooms in chirpy colours, evoking happy thoughts and sweet moments of love. Since I

started the business in my twenties, it has evolved from a youthful desire to break away from the traditional notion of flower arranging. In the shop, I often craft my designs to music playlists — from Nick Drake's autumnal, acoustic tunes to Belle & Sebastian's wistful, whimsical melodies — compiled by my husband, Kevin. So, they tend to be subtly shaped by the songs I'm listening to at that point in time as well.

WHY DO YOU THINK YOUNG PEOPLE ARE GETTING INTO THE TRADE?

In the last few years, we have seen a rise in craft culture in Singapore. Naturally, there's also a renewed interest in small, independent and craft-based businesses. People want to return to the simpler, hands-on way of life as an escape from the stresses of modern society. As the next generation no longer wish to be trapped in office cubicles, they're leaving their cushy jobs behind and working with their hands instead. Of course, opening a flower shop is an attractive way to do so — you are surrounded by pretty blooms all day long!



tips!

When creating modern floral arrangements...

DO:

■ **GO WILD.** Free-flow centrepieces are all the rage now. This means not being afraid to veer away from those tacky, tightly bunched balls of flowers. Concentrate on creating an irregular, organic shape while giving the arrangement more room to breathe. Then allow lines — such as a flowering branch — to extend outwards.

■ **ADD TEXTURE.** A really simple way to create visual interest in your centrepiece is to add textural details to it. It could be waxy succulents, ball-like billy buttons or blue thistles with their spiky needles. Think of them as that conversation piece that jazzes up your home decor.

DON'T:

■ **NEGLECT THE BACK.** As you add more flowers, loosen your grip and rotate the bunch so that you are not just focusing on the front. This means the gorgeous blooms can be viewed from all angles, making for a much more versatile arrangement suitable for most spots at home.

■ **FORGET THE FOLIAGE.** Spend some time choosing the right seasonal greens, such as eucalyptus leaves or pittosporum. You'd find that they serve as a useful base to build on while complementing the flowers.



Heather Tan

AGE: 27

COMPANY AND SITE:

Poppy Flora Studio,
www.poppy.com.sg

NO. OF YEARS AS

A FLORIST: 3

SIGNATURE STYLE: Flowers are fleeting, and floral arrangements are about reinventing, spontaneity and translating my vision at a point of time.

WHY DO YOU THINK YOUNG PEOPLE ARE GETTING INTO THE TRADE?

For me, it has always been about doing things I love, and working with flowers just so happens to be one. Flowers have ephemeral beauty, and they have such a positive effect on people. The hundreds of thousands of flower species are the means to my creation. My personal obsession is manipulating flowers and exploring the unknown.



tip!

When creating modern floral arrangements...

■ There are no hard and fast rules to a creation. Floral arrangements are an expression of emotions, and are very subjective — they are all about what the creator wants to express.





EAT YOUR OWN GREENS

A step-by-step guide on setting up your own kitchen garden by Rob Pearce, co-founder of Edible Garden City

TEXT Ho Pei Ying

1 To start, determine whether your garden would be indoors or outdoors. Ideally, you would want somewhere with a few hours of direct sunlight. Balconies and corridor spaces are great options.

2 Next, source for a container. Any plastic one will do, but create some holes at the bottom for drainage. A good size would be around 50cm by 50cm. Do make sure the containers won't leak chemicals like BPA.

3 For beginners, herbs are a good choice. Mint, basil and Indian borage are resilient and easy to maintain. If you want a bit of colour, try Japanese lettuce. For the more adventurous, brinjal and bayam spinach are also good for beginners but those tend to only thrive outdoors.

4 It is recommended that you don't start growing from seeds. Buy grown plants from local nurseries and start your kitchen garden with them. They are a lot easier – and less disappointing – for a first-time farmer.

5 Soil selection is equally important. Choose mixed soil with equal amounts of clay, sand and compost. Go for those that have organic matter in them.

6 How much you water depends very much on the plant. A basic guide would be to water once a day or every other day, unless you have a self-watering system in place.

7 In cases of pest attacks, leave nature to take care of itself if you're planting outdoors. But for indoor gardens, you can get rid of the pests by hand, or spray a mixture of water and hand soap onto the plant.

inside story

In ideal situations, you would be able to grow your own food in a big, open space. But reality is not perfect, so the folks at Edible Garden City have come up with an indoor solution for your kitchen garden. Now your plants can grow – and thrive – just by using LED strip lights in place of daylight. Having experimented with LED tubes and conventional grow lights, they've found that LED strips – rolls of light-emitting diodes, which you can find in any hardware store – work best because of their ability to channel the light source more directly and evenly onto plants. These luminaires run on just 12V so they don't take up much power. For the best growing conditions, leave the lights on for 12 hours daily and let your plants take a breather from the “sun” for the rest of the time.

Want more gardening advice or keen to purchase growing kits? Visit NONG, the retail arm of Edible Garden City, at 8D Dempsey Road, #01-03, www.nong.com.sg



GARDENING



hanging out

Suspending plants from the ceiling is one way to make use of vertical space. But why grow them right-side up when turning them around has a plethora of benefits? In this form of gardening, the plants don't come into direct contact with the soil, eliminating problems like soil-borne insects and diseases. Just get a bucket, poke holes through the bottom, and push the plant roots through openings from the outside before finally putting in soil. As the plants are allowed to hang freely, it's particularly useful to grow types that typically require structural support. This is also a great idea if you're thinking of having your own kitchen herb garden — it'll be easier to reach the herbs you'll need in your culinary undertakings.

Foliage options: bird's nest fern, club moss, tomatoes, and creeper herbs like thyme and oregano

tip!

If you're hanging pots right-side up, you can grow plants on both ends to create an extra productive planter. Just make sure both plants have similar growing requirements.

LITTLE GREEN PARADISE

Not everyone has the luxury of an outdoor backyard or a sprawling balcony. But a small space is no excuse for not having a home garden

TEXT Ho Pei Ying

window of opportunity

Instead of curtains, why not deck out your windows with hanging planters? Plants that cascade beautifully downwards when they grow are great choices. Do determine first how much sunlight actually comes in, as it will heavily influence your plant selection. In general, these plants will get exposed to a good amount of sunlight, so go for hardy ones that can take, or actually require, all that sunshine.

Foliage options: tillandsia if there's no direct sunlight and herbs like basil that need the sun



inside out

A luxuriant green wall will have your interiors looking and feeling like the outdoors.

Whilst they are more commonly found in commercial buildings, smaller scale vertical gardens can still find a place in homes. It's important to select a spot that has plenty of sunlight and ventilation. If there's an irrigation system in place, there isn't really a need to water the plants yourself. However, a word of caution: they're still pretty high maintenance as you'll probably need to do

regular pruning to prevent overcrowding.

The irrigation might also get clogged from time to time. If you're still keen, there are a few ways to go about it. You can either choose to do up your system from scratch by purchasing ready-made modular shelves from local nurseries, or if you are not very handy with tools, you might want to engage a professional.

Foliage options: various philodendrons, money plants and other creeper plants



Fleurieu Gifts

tip!

Grow plants with pendulous growth habits at the lower ranges of your vertical wall so they won't hinder the growth of other plants. For the horticulturally challenged, a green wall made up of cacti and hardy succulents placed in a planter frame is a great low-maintenance option.



Garden House Design

green house

Having a terrarium is like having an entire garden in the palm of your hand, albeit a mini (and space-saving) one of course. Try to keep to three to four plant varieties so that your jar doesn't look like an overgrown jungle. To start, create a drainage layer at the bottom with pebbles or charcoal. Next, pour in the soil before inserting the plants. Top up with more soil and add in your decor. Finally, use a spray to water the leaves of your plant and soil – and you're good to go! Terrariums require infrequent maintenance, and the amount of water they need depends on the plants you use.

Foliage options: ferns, mosses, fittonia, pitcher plants



White Mint

tip!

Are you overwatering your terrarium? If your leaves are yellow and feel mushy, you might be! If they're brown and crunchy, it's a sign that you're not watering enough.

A MOSSY AFFAIR

Mossariums are the newest adaptation to the traditional terrarium. Unlike terrariums, where a variety of plants are used, these moss terrariums only use one plant type. The designers at Mossimoto recommend using Holland Pillow moss as they seem to survive better. Here are three reasons why moss is boss:

1. It's very malleable, which makes it easy to create any landscape you want.
2. In general, they can last longer than regular plants.
3. It grows lush with age, without overrunning the jar. So there's no need for pruning or trimming.

Not keen on DIY? Grab ready-made mossariums by Mossimoto at the Museum of Art and Design and Occasional Glimpses of Beauty at Orchard Gateway. For customised orders, visit www.mossimoto.sg



Mossimoto



LIVING BETTER THROUGH DESIGN

IKEA has always made its products with 'democratic design' in mind, but what does that really mean? We find out during a media tour to Almhult, Sweden, the birthplace of the furnishing icon

TEXT Yuen Yi Ying & Foo Mei Siah PHOTOS IKEA



Peter Agnelfall, President and CEO of IKEA group

In its 72-year history, IKEA has been very effective at bringing people around the globe together with affordable and well-designed furniture. Last month, it exercised its unifying power again, welcoming 239 journalists from 31 countries onto its scenic home turf in Sweden. It was the first time the company opened its Democratic Design Day to the press, and everyone was eager to learn more about its philosophy, get a preview of upcoming launches, and explore the country IKEA has been so successful at promoting.

Kicking off the event on day two, Peter Agnelfall, President and CEO of IKEA group, shared the message everyone was curious to hear. Just what is 'democratic design' all about? The answer, according to Peter, is a five-prong idea behind all of IKEA's products with endless possibilities for making life at home better.

1 **FORM:** Being surrounded by beautifully designed products at home makes people feel better. IKEA's designs combine simplicity and honesty (which are implicit in Swedish heritage) with global inspiration.

2 **FUNCTION:** Having a product that works well is crucial, but more importantly, they have to make life at home easier and more meaningful.

3 **QUALITY:** Products need to last longer, age gracefully and stand the test of time.

4 **SUSTAINABILITY:** It's not just about producing items in a way that's good for the planet e.g. through sustainable sourcing, efficient energy consumption and having a solid infrastructure for distribution, but also about how they help people recycle and live a more eco-friendly life at home.

5 **LOW PRICE:** Being innovative and smart about making things so they're truly affordable and accessible to many.



The Maskros lamp by Marcus Arvonen is one of the brand's iconic designs.



This gorgeous stool is made with acacia wood and it's IKEA's first foray into using the material for indoor pieces.

"At IKEA, we're not just making things, but making things better," explains Peter. "The key to doing this is curiosity – the drive to try things and find new solutions. This means creating with meaning and value." For the affable CEO, the best part of his job is getting to realise IKEA's "fantastic vision", as well as going into the homes of customers around the world and seeing that IKEA is creating a better everyday life for them.



Marcus proudly sits by his acacia pieces that look and feel like they're made of more expensive wood, like oak.

long dominated the scene with the brand's furniture, but Marcus has a new dining and cooking collection named Skogsta (available August 2015) which will be IKEA's first time using acacia wood for indoor wares.

Marcus shared that the whole log is used in the production – both the blonde sapwood and the core – letting the light and dark tones mix and add character to the designs. This approach also optimises use of material. So far, this sustainable collection has been highlighted by global sales leaders as being the second with the most potential. Would anyone be able to refuse it when the line has been built to age with grace and last for a long time?



THE CATALOGUES

Do you enjoy flipping through the IKEA catalogue every year? Each copy takes 18 MONTHS to produce from planning to photography and translation. The catalog first debuted in 1951, and with 211 MILLION copies printed annually, it's the most widely-circulated publication in the world.



The first catalogue produced by IKEA!

Marcus Arvonen

In-house Designer of IKEA

He's the designer who created one of IKEA's signature lighting fixtures, the dandelion-inspired lamp, Maskros. Back in 2006, Marcus and his wife were at a lake one day and he noticed the windblown dandelion seeds flying around. The structure of the floret has beautiful architecture on its own, Marcus explains, and that's where the spark for his idea came from.

Since coming onboard in 2005, Marcus has loved every minute of his career, sharing that he hopes his designs will stay in IKEA's range as classics that are "cheap enough, good enough and appealing enough." It motivates him to know that there are always better ways of doing things, and this has always been the starting point of all his work.

At IKEA, wood has always been dear and familiar to the company. Light-coloured varieties like pine, spruce and birch have



WHAT'S
IN THE
FUTURE?

IKEA experts share their
thoughts on how designing
homeware has evolved

Charge your phone
without cables simply
by placing it at the
base of this lamp.

FLEXIBLE ABODES

Most of us are living in increasingly smaller spaces, and the concept of having one specific room just for eating, watching TV or working is a thing of the past. According to IKEA, what's getting more popular are 'fluid' homes with multipurpose areas where we do different activities, eat, socialise and even sleep. This new way of living requires novel approaches to product development and conceptualisation.

The IKEA 365+ range – a collection of cookware, diningware and food storage solutions

– reflects this in its design by making it easier to transport food across different spaces in a home.

In April 2016, the furniture giant will be expanding this collection with the Vardagen line. Unlike the IKEA 365+ range, which has a modern and minimalistic aesthetic, the Vardagen collection is inspired by traditional and timeless craftsmanship, adding a subtle touch of character.

INDIVIDUALISTIC APPEAL

How do you make a house filled with mass-produced items feel unique and special? The team at IKEA has been pondering that question, and the Vardagen collection is just one of their ventures to give homes more personality. The new IKEA PS collection is another example. Made with recycled glass, the craftsmen get to control the form

Wiebke Braasch

In-house Designer of IKEA

Inspired by the simplicity of modern Scandinavian design and attracted to IKEA's philosophy, Wiebke joined the furniture giant as an in-house designer in 2004. Among the things she likes about her job is the challenge of working with new materials and techniques. She also likes working with teams made of different specialists, where their skills get to cross and mesh together at their best. For her, great satisfaction comes from knowing her designs are accessible to many at a friendly price. This means she has successfully used her creativity to meet the challenge of balancing materials and cost.

Although Wiebke has designed furniture for children, becoming the mother of two boys (aged four and seven) has given her a better understanding of how to integrate the needs and aesthetics of both parents and kids when working on children's pieces.



Wiebke likes the Risatorp trolley, which consists mainly of just two materials. She likes how it feels good and requires less material than other similar items to construct.





The IKEA 365+ range (left) is the perfect solution for all dining needs, while the Vardagen collection (below) has a bit more design flair with its more traditional crafted look.



and shape, but because they have less control over the hues of the material, what results can be quite special and exciting.

‘SMARTER’ FURNITURE

Homes are getting more connected with everything from coffee machines to security systems being controlled by phones. This technological influence has also found its way into IKEA's latest creations.

There's a new wireless charging range that lets you power your gadgets directly on your bedside table or lamp, simply by placing your device on the cross. One day, you could be able to download updates that add new features to your appliances, just like you would when upgrading to the latest operating system.



You don't need electricity to power this 'vacuum machine'!

“If people are increasingly sitting on the floor or sofa to eat, we need plates and bowls to help them do that.”

Mikael Ydholm, Head of Research at IKEA



POPULAR SPOT

IKEA has received 821 MILLION store visits, and if everyone were to head to just one store, the line would go 6.5 TIMES around the world!

361

THE NUMBER OF IKEA STORES WORLDWIDE. YOU COULD ALMOST GO TO A DIFFERENT ONE EACH DAY!

Johanna Jelinek

In-house Designer at IKEA

The Czech started out in IKEA as an interior design apprentice and was the graphic designer for the catalogue from 1991 to 1995. She shares that the graphic skills she picked up has helped her with creating pieces today. Since 2002, she has been one of IKEA's in-house product designers.

Sustainability is a big thing for her, as she's a believer of taking care of Mother Earth since it's part of our everyday lives. Thus, everything she designs needs to be sustainable with good functionality and aesthetics. That said, she adds that good products need not be expensive, but they shouldn't be created by seeking affordability at all costs.

The range she's currently working on is at the prototype stage, and it includes a vacuum cleaner (that doesn't require electricity to operate!), a bee hotel, and kitchen furniture that makes it easy for homeowners to recycle. She has also come up with pots that help monitor water levels in soil, so people can get more involved with indoor planting without hassle or worries.



Johanna sits on a space-saving bench she designed, which has recycling bins underneath. One of her favourite IKEA pieces is a wall lamp from the 2012 collection that can be pushed to lean against the wall when not in use.

STUNNING ROOMS FOR RENT

Why stay at a hotel when you can check into these gorgeous homes? We scoured holiday rental site Airbnb for four awesome digs to consider the next time you're on vacation

TEXT Ho Pei Ying



The bathroom doors and ceiling were painted with chalkboard paint. Leave recommendations or tips for the next visitors, or just let your creativity flow. The surfaces are also used by the hosts to leave notes for their guests.



*local experience
in a designer
apartment*
📍 Prague, Czech Republic
\$146/night

WHO: Foodies Jan and Zuzi are a lovely couple who run a blog called Taste of Prague, which provides a guide for travellers on some of the best sights and eats to experience in this touristy city. Previously a lawyer and legal translator respectively, the pair gave up their jobs because they were "sick of corporate life". On top of hosting guests in their apartment, they also conduct food and city tours.

WHAT: Set in a building that dates back to the 1930s, this modern, light-filled apartment is awash in neutrals but infused with pops of colours to give it a fun and cheerful vibe. Exposed bulbs with neon





Illustrated by Czech artists Tomski and Polanski, the doodles on the living room wall depict the map of the neighbourhood with Jan and Zuzi's favourite places and eateries.



These bedside tables were made by Zuzi's dad from tree trunks! He dried, preserved and painted the logs himself.



pink wires hang from the ceilings, while black-and-white doodles fill the walls. It may be only 600 square feet in size, but there's plenty going for it in terms of facilities. Jan and Zuzi think like a traveller, so rest assured that there's everything you need in here. There's also a spacious bedroom with a king-sized bed and a fully-fitted kitchen with all the necessities (and more) — induction hob, oven, dishwasher, refrigerator filled with local snacks, microwave, toaster, and even a Nespresso machine. If you need more sleeping room, the sofa can be converted into a queen-sized bed too.

WHERE: Nestled in-between two large parks, the apartment is located at the Letna district — the hip place to be with its bistros, art galleries and specialty shops. It's also very close to the town centre — just a 15-minute walk to main tourist attractions like the Old Town Square, Prague Castle, Municipal House and the Jewish Quarter (Josefov). Downstairs is the historical Bio Oko art house cinema, where you can catch Czech movies in subtitles for a bit of local infusion. Hit the designer bookstore Page Five just across the road if you prefer to read.



The Bio Oko art house is located at the first floor of the building where the apartment is. Besides Czech flicks, there are movies in English too.

PROPERTY



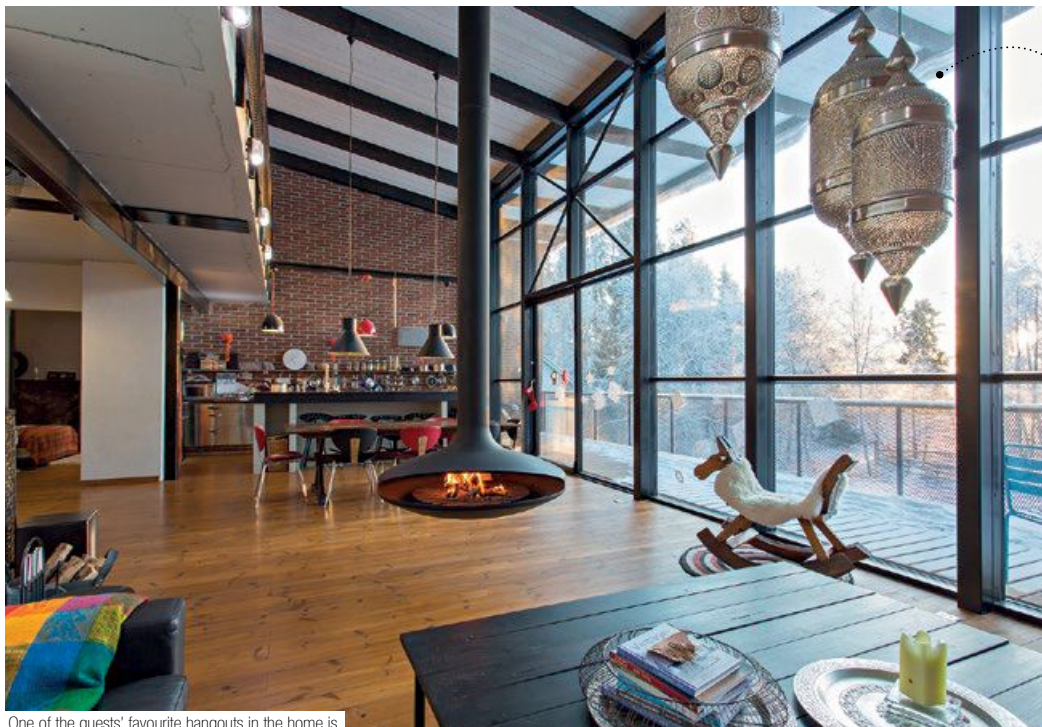
WHO: Your host is David, a web developer who lives in this London pad with his dog, Marley. Currently studying for his PhD, he rents out a part of his home so that he won't have to spend his weekends "making websites work".

WHAT: Recently furnished, this contemporary flat features an open-plan layout decked in classic furniture pieces like an Eames lounge chair and a Robin Day sofa. David includes plenty of potted plants about, so the interiors feel like a part of the verdant topography outside (the building is located within Tufnell Park). For the techies, you'll be pleased to know that there is a 50" 3D telly, a surround sound amplifier and

speakers in the bathroom. But it's not all about the gadgets; it's also about the comfort too. The double bed is fitted with luxurious Egyptian cotton sheets; plus you can have as many clean towels as you want.

WHERE: It's clean and green in this neighbourhood. If you like peace and quiet, this place is it. David recommends walking to Hampstead Heath, one of London's most popular open spaces. Central London is also very accessible via public transport nearby. Prefer to stay local? Visit Fortress Road — which is fast becoming a shopping street — or seek David's counsel for nearby gastro pubs and shops.





These gorgeous pendants were bought from Morocco. They add a hint of the exotic to the overall space.

One of the guests' favourite hangouts in the home is the spot in front of the expansive windows. The view differs vastly, depending on the season you visit.



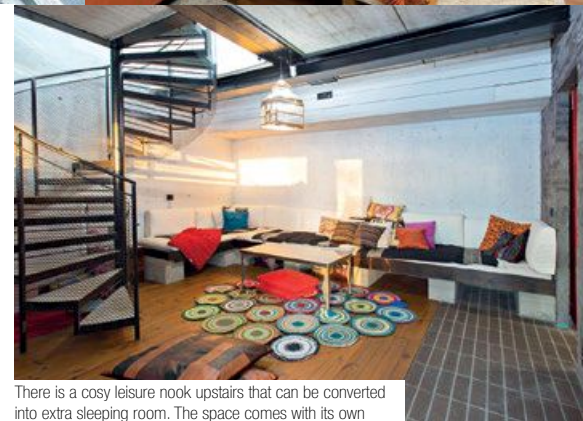
The kitchen has everything you need. Here is also apparently where the host makes special smoothies for his guests.

private room in a loft house

2 Oulu, Finland
\$77/night

WHO: Teemu is the quintessential host – flexible, friendly and very helpful. From the reviews on the site, he has been known to have long evening conversations with the guests, help with vehicular breakdowns, and sometimes double as a city tour guide. Teemu stays in the bedrooms upstairs with his kids, ages seven and eight, so he's always around to answer any questions you might have.

WHAT: Although the surrounding estate dates back to the 1960s, the three-storey house is a relatively new built – it was constructed in 2009 and the family moved in only two years later. Large, loft-style windows cover a total area of 700 square feet. The rest of the interior takes on an industrial vibe with real brick walls, concrete surfaces and metal grid accents. Solid pine wood flooring adds a warm and cosy vibe, while ethnic prints give it an international



There is a cosy leisure nook upstairs that can be converted into extra sleeping room. The space comes with its own fireplace, and leads directly to the bathroom and sauna.



For cold winter days, a hot sauna bath is in order.

flavour. With the exception of the uppermost floor, the rest of the home is accessible to guests. There is only one bedroom for two, but Teemu can accommodate more if you are bringing extra people. The balconies and patio are great for al fresco dining. For the colder months, drop by the in-house sauna for a relaxing soak.

WHERE: You'd probably not want to leave this house, but if you must, we recommend you rent bicycles from Teemu to take advantage of Oulu's 800km cycling routes. The city centre is not too far away – just 3.5km – and accessible by bus. There is also a nearby beach for the summer.

PROPERTY

The entranceway to the Cottage, previously a storage area, used to house an additional brick archway, but it was demolished as it was blocking the light from reaching in. Now, the Cottage is a bright and open space.



Photos by Carsten Burmeister



humble pie cottage & house

📍 Erskineville,
New South Wales, Australia
\$119/night & \$380/night

WHO: Self-proclaimed hoarders Mark and Leesa describe themselves as "designer builders, jewellers and upcycle artisans". They design and build new homes as well as renovate existing ones. Their love for making things from items they've collected has translated into unique homes comprising many of their own creations. The Humble Pie properties – their first Sydney projects – are no different.

WHAT: The Cottage and the House can be rented separately, but larger groups can rent



The interiors of the Cottage may be small – the kitchen is located just across the bed – but it makes up for it with a charming garden where you can collect fresh eggs daily from their pet chickens.

them together. They are located on the same property and are divided only by a courtyard. The House is the upper floor of a two-storey duplex, while the Cottage is a studio apartment converted from the garage. The interiors are eclectic, fun and rustic, filled with refurbished pieces and trinkets the couple amassed over the

years. Most of the decor was taken from the great outdoors – feathers, seed pods, dried flowers, desert sand and even a bird nest fallen from a tree.

WHERE: Erskineville, or Erko as it's known to the locals, feels just like a cosy village. There are plenty of shops, delis, cafes and bars within walking distance, all leading to King Street Newtown which sees a blend of the old and new. Visit the farmer's market on the weekends at Everleigh Rail Yards and the Addison Road Community Centre. Food-wise, Mark and Leesa recommend Cafe Sophia for a hearty local breakfast, Shenkin for homemade pastries and Barmuda for the best corn fritters around.



Long walks around the neighbourhood have resulted in this collection of treasures from nature.



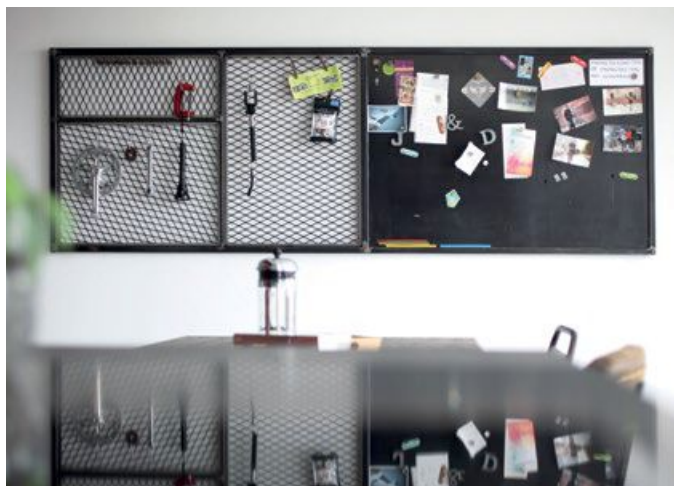
The hosts made the most of the balconies by turning them into relaxing outdoor living spaces.



The predominately white palette used in the furnishings and walls is filled with treasures the couple has collected over the years.

WIN!
Airbnb is giving away \$250 worth of credit to three readers.

To win, look out for details on the SquareRooms Facebook page, www.facebook.com/squarerrooms



THINKING *big*

*In this airy and open home,
spaces double up as work and
play areas with clever design and
moveable furniture*

TEXT Yuen Yi Ying PHOTOS Brim Design

At 1,335 square feet, this condo unit might seem rather large in land-scarce Singapore. But as the husband works mostly from home, it was important to have the right layout to avoid feeling cooped up. Turning to Brim Design, the couple's biggest request was to have an open hall that would not only be conducive for work and entertaining, but also feel more welcoming as soon as they stepped home.

Since the kitchen and storeroom initially narrowed the entrance, their designer decided to knock the walls down, immediately letting in



BLENDING STYLES

The husband likes the look of raw finishes like those in factories, but their designer managed to balance the aesthetics with the more refined tastes of the wife.



3 BEDROOM CONDO | **1,335** ^{sqf} | **RENO PERIOD** **10 WEEKS** | **HOME TO**  **ROSYTH ROAD**

SPACES



**Linon Bar Table and
Stools from Courts**

SUBTLE TOUCHES (above)

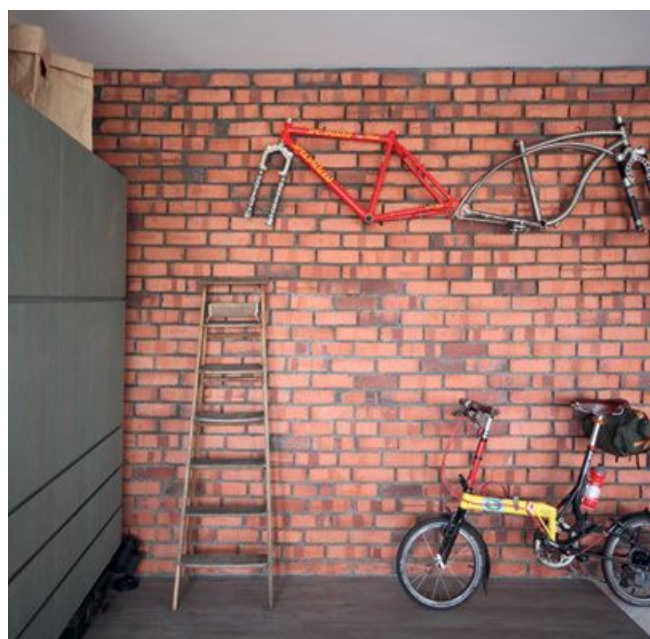
After knocking down the kitchen and storeroom walls, the designer replaced the original flooring with porcelain wood tiles. The rough cement column is an accent that incorporates the warehouse feel that the husband loves.

SMART MOVE (right)

This sturdy brick wall adds visual interest to the room and can hold the weight of the bicycle frames.

more light and widening the space. Now, laminate-covered cabinets by the fridge hide a shoe rack and provide storage for luggages. The pantry, where kitchen appliances are stored, is a few steps away, hidden behind a green custom-made cupboard that also provides pull-out counter space for more kitchen prep or for guests to put food and drinks on when they come over.

The area in front of the pantry was left empty on purpose so guests could pull up chairs and the owners would have sweeping unblocked views when they walked in. But to make the space more interesting, the designer put up a real brick wall where the husband could mount his bicycles and show them off at the same time. The uniqueness of the hall is further enhanced with many cool web





“The owners wanted a unique space, so they were quite enthusiastic about finding cool pieces online.”

Designer

OPEN LIVING

After taking away a boundary wall between the kitchen and dining space, daylight fills the hall with a welcoming vibe.

SPACES



SLEEK ADDITION *(above)*

Beside the kitchen island, there's a trolley that provides additional counter space.

DESIGN DETAIL *(right)*

The bay window has a textured side that makes this otherwise stark room stand out.

buys such as the swivel stool and hat rack.

Closer to the window, a long table by the kitchen provides a sunny spot for meals and for the husband to work. The TV console directly across was kept simple with sleek plywood and laminate shelves.

Further inside the house, the bedrooms walls were left intact. One room was converted into a simple walk-in wardrobe, while another is now an office cum exercise space with a hanging punching bag (not shown in the picture). In the office, the furnishings are on wheels so they can be easily moved outside and the punching bag

used without obstruction.

In the master bedroom, a specially constructed wide headboard obscures a bay window, where the owners placed their radio and bedside lamps, making the space neater and more serene. The bedframe was also customised and gives a bit of design flair to the clean space.

With everything tucked away neatly to avoid distracting clutter, and plenty of bright roomy spaces, this home is exactly as the owners wanted it – a perfect sanctuary to think and work creatively, as well as lounge around and enjoy life!





CALM AND UNCLUTTERED
(left)

The wide headboard gives the illusion of full-height windows and hides a few of the couple's smaller belongings.

DOUBLE DUTY
(bottom, left)

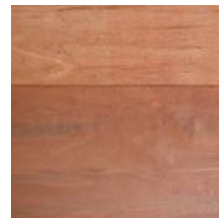
There's not much furniture in this office and everything is on wheels so they can be moved out for the owner to use a hanging punching bag (not shown).



MATERIALS



KITCHEN
FLOOR
Porcelain wood tiles



KITCHEN
CEILING
ACCENT
Plywood and laminate



PANTRY
CABINET
Muted green wood-
patterned laminate



3 BEDROOM CONDO | **2,400^{sq}** | **RENO PERIOD 3 MONTHS**



LIVING ROOM

The centrepiece of the TV feature is ash wood, while the sides are bronzed tinted mirrors. The mirror on the left slides to reveal the entrance to the balcony.

CLASS *act*

*Opulent materials and finishes
make this a luxurious family home*

TEXT Ho Pei Ying PHOTOS SuMISURA

What first caught the eye of the homeowner, a Russian businessman, was a show flat design for a luxury condo done up by Angela Lim of SuMISURA.

He wanted to recreate the look – which consisted mainly of solid wood fixtures and pieces – in his new home. However, Angela wasn't keen on reusing her designs. The designer hence suggested embarking on a different route – one that nevertheless maintained the luxurious feel as seen in the show flat, but boasted a distinctive character that fit in with his needs and preferences.

SPACES



MASTER SUITE (above)

The master bedroom is set on a semi-circular layout with near 180-degree views. Floral motifs bring a soft and feminine feel to this luxurious space.

HEADBOARD (right)

Nothing says elegance like the use of leather, velvet and bronzed tinted mirror together. This floor-to-ceiling headboard radiates grandiosity in the master bedroom.

The apartment was to be a permanent home for his family, who were planning to settle down in Singapore. One of the main challenges Angela faced during the design process was the reconfiguration of the layout as there were a lot of structural technicalities that had to be taken into account. The original plan had four bedrooms, which were reduced to three after converting the smallest room into a walk-in wardrobe.

Another major renovation work involved turning the dry kitchen into a dining area so that the living room could be bigger. Before, the living and dining rooms shared an open-plan space. The facilities that came with the dry kitchen were moved to the wet kitchen, and in their place are storage cabinets hidden behind bronzed tinted mirrors. An indented niche was carved out for the owner to feature one of his sculptures.

To appeal to the homeowner's fondness for wood, Angela adopted ash wood for the wood surfaces in the home. These were stained dark for a more exclusive





Meadow cylinder lamp from Indie art and design

JUNIOR SUITE *(left)*

Not wanting to leave the wall behind the bed empty, the owner requested for it to be filled with pictures. Angela not only did up the frames, made from ash wood, but also sourced for the pictures herself.

“Instead of an interior dominated by wood surfaces like in the show flat, we went for more graphic details, upholstered pieces and luxurious trimmings here.”

Angela Lim

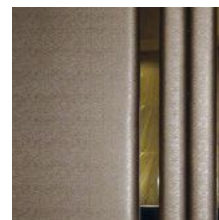
look. In the living room, the grand TV feature wall is made up of ash wood with full-length bronzed tinted mirrors at the sides. Ash wood was also used to frame the three art pieces along the corridor and the door that leads into the junior suite.

Like the master bedroom, the junior suite comes with its en suite, but what's particularly striking is the photo feature wall just above the bed, which comprises black-and-white images that Angela sourced herself. In the master suite, Angela did up a stunning tall headboard made from luxe materials like leather and velvet.

MATERIALS



**LIVING ROOM
TV WALL**
Ash wood,
spray-painted black



**MASTER
BEDROOM
HEADBOARD**
Leather and velvet



**DINING
FEATURE WALL
+ STORAGE**
Bronze tinted mirror

BLOCK *party*

A Lego-themed home can be a lot of fun, but juxtapose it with industrial elements so that it also looks seriously chic

TEXT Ho Pei Ying PHOTOS Distinct Identity



JOB **4 ROOM** **FLAT** | **990** sqf | **HOME TO**  **9 FERNVALE** | **BUDGET** **\$50K**





LIVING & DINING

The designer included industrial features like track lighting so that the interiors wouldn't look juvenile. He also made use of dark wood and surface materials like wire meshes and metal sheets.

SPACES

BUILDING BLOCKS

A divider made from coloured glass blocks was constructed to hide the view of the doorway from inside. The pieces were painted with the colours of Lego bricks.



“I haven’t done anything like this before, but I was really excited by the brief because it appealed to my playful side!”

Designer

The brief from the young couple to their designer was simple: make it fun and colourful. There were many ways one could go with this – most notably the Scandinavian direction – but the designer at Distinct Identity wanted to do something different and thus proposed a Lego theme inspired by the Danish brick toys instead. This was also in part because he was a Lego collector himself. He shared the inspiration with the pair, who was sold on the idea immediately even though the designer revealed that he has never done this before.

The only issue with this theme was that the space could end up looking too much like

a preschool, which was why he decided to incorporate industrial features for an edgier vibe. In the living room for instance, wire meshes were layered underneath a wooden criss-cross design feature, while metal sheets were used to cover the wall behind the TV. These elements provide additional textures and character amidst the wood surfaces.

An industrial home is not complete without the requisite brick wall. Here, it acts as a feature for the dining area. To tie both themes together, the designer painted the white CraftStone bricks in bright hues to reflect the iconic Lego shades, but it was given an unfinished look that extended to the top beam of the kitchen entrance.



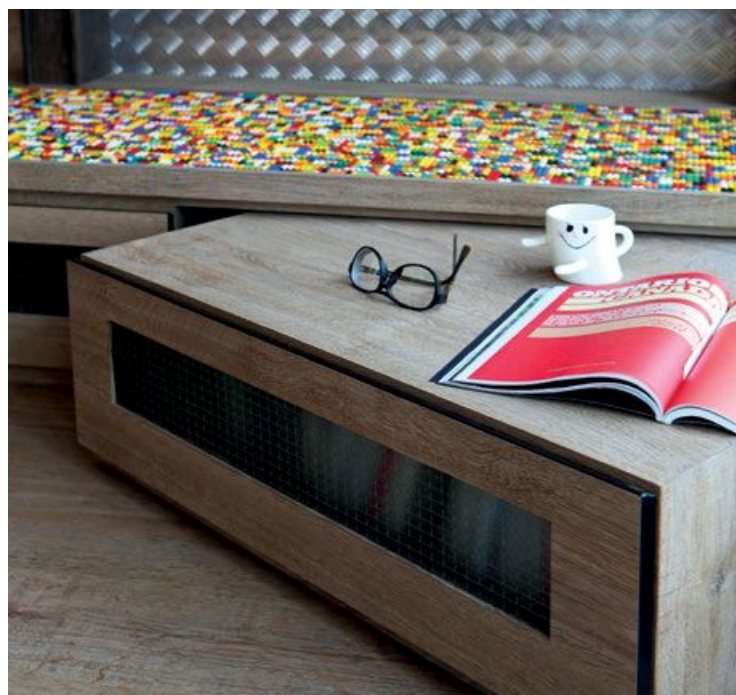
H Low Stool from Tolix

DINING ROOM FEATURE
(bottom, left)

Extending over the top beam of the entrance to the kitchen, the faux brick wall was intentionally made to look unfinished.

SPACE-SAVING FEATURE
(bottom, right)

One of the drawers in the TV console was constructed to double as a coffee table when necessary.



SPACES

CONSOLE (right)

It took the designer a couple of weeks just to piece together the individual Lego bricks onto the TV console. Selected at random, the pieces were secured using hot glue.



LIVING ROOM FEATURE (above)

Anchoring the living room is an outline of a house, laminated in a dark walnut colour. Chosen to furnish the empty wall behind the sofa, it is not too ostentatious that it steals attention away from the rest of the designs in the home.

MASTER BEDROOM (right)

Unlike the primary hues in the rest of the home, the couple's sleeping quarters employ a more muted palette that takes after the colours of nature. The designer thought the private space needed a more calming environment.





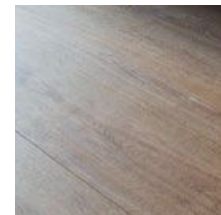
STUDY

One of the most stunning features in the study is the bookshelf, painted to look like it was made from concrete. A less obvious detail however is the side of the study table, which sees a downscaled version of the Lego feature in the living room.

MATERIALS



DINING
FEATURE
WALL
Painted white
CraftStone bricks



LIVING ROOM
PLATFORM
Solid plywood with
maple wood laminate



DIVIDER
Coloured glass
blocks

Other Lego elements include the actual toy bricks being painstakingly laid on the top of the TV console by the designer himself over the course of two weeks. Dining chairs were also chosen based on Lego hues, while brightly coloured glass blocks were stacked together to block the view of the main door from the inside.

As the flat wasn't very big, space-saving features were particularly important. The designer created a modular drawer for the TV console that could act as a coffee table when the need arises.

A raised platform was also erected to demarcate the living from the dining. It was created higher than usual – about 20cm – so that the homeowners could store their wine collection beneath.

Inside, Lego bricks make their reappearance at the side of the custom-built desk in the study. The room went for boxy silhouettes, contrasting with the longer and narrower strips used in the master bedroom. The earthier hues in the bedchamber, as opposed to the vivid colours throughout the home, lend a comforting ambiance to this room for rest.

5 BEDROOM HDB
IMPROVED

RENO PERIOD
4 MONTHS

BUDGET \$150K
INCLUSIVE OF FURNISHINGS

HOME TO 3 PEOPLE



CONTEMPORARY LIVING

The owner started buying furniture at a young age, and her tastes had evolved over the years. She also kept many sentimental artefacts from her late mother who loved decorating as well. Designer Jonathan's task was to meld the styles together, and he did so by picking simple silhouettes that wouldn't crowd the space.

A HOME *less ordinary*

The owner wanted a home that didn't look like a regular HDB, and she found the perfect designer to execute her vision

TEXT Yuen Yi Ying PHOTOS Justin Loh STYLING Khaili Teoh and Yuen Yi Ying



Horseshoe Chair B
from Shimu

**BRIGHT AND
INVITING**
(right)

Jonathan transformed the balcony into a sunny sitting area that adds to the size of the hall.

**A CHARACTER-
FILLED SPACE**
(below)

In the early 2000s, the owner was into everything Chinoiserie as Shanghai was one of her favourite cities. You see oriental touches here, but they're mixed tastefully with modern and sleek cabinetry.



Having lived in a few homes, and understanding the merits and downsides of each place, the owner, who lives here with her father and two kids, knew just what she wanted in her new space.

But with a long list of requests, embarking on this project would be challenging indeed!

Moving over from a much larger apartment, and being an avid furniture collector, one of her biggest concerns would be fitting her belongings while maintaining a breathable, uncluttered and cohesive space. Having a big living room was also crucial for two reasons: she entertains a lot, and hoped it would encourage her family members to gather outside, instead of retreating to their rooms to watch TV like before. Additionally, to increase privacy, she wanted to redirect the rooms so the doors wouldn't be seen from the hall.

“I know I needed in my designer someone who could work with these old pieces of mine, yet give me an updated look so my new pad doesn't look like all my previous homes.”

Homeowner

While she thought the HDB renovations she'd seen were nice, she didn't like that they all tended to look quite similar, featuring rather standard built-in cabinetry and layouts. After sharing her thoughts with a few designers, she felt Jonathan Poh of Studio JP stood out the most. She liked that he'd paid close attention to her brief, providing solutions and design suggestions tailored to her needs right from his first pitch – something some experts are uncomfortable sharing at the start.

Even though his concept meant that she had to knock down almost every room in her house, driving up the cost and time needed, the owner “didn't mind a bit” as it meant she would have a huge living space to share with her family.

After the initial meeting, the designer came by the home she was occupying then to view her furnishings and gain an appreciation of her style. Despite the fact that his works were usually less colourful, the perceptive designer ended up choosing the colour of one of her Chinese chests as the hue for the living room feature wall, something the owner appreciated. “I'm glad he took to my love for colours, and also suggested ideas that are more me than him,” she explained.



CREATING MORE ROOM

Half of the kitchen has been merged with the living room, but there's still a pantry area in the hall for the owner to store her wine and glasses.

SPACES

SUNNY STUDY (below)

The kids have plenty of space to do their homework, and plenty of shelves for books and stationery.

Once permits were settled and work started, the wall creating a recess at the entrance was among the first things to come down. This was quickly followed by the demolition of a room adjoining the hall, immediately creating a cavernous living room. Jonathan later rebuilt the room for the owner's father further inside, with the door facing the window. To increase the space and hide the door to the children's room, he extended the walls lengthwise into a wide corridor that was initially meant as a dining area. The dining zone was then repositioned perpendicularly, so it now sits behind the generous four-seater sofa in the living room.

Although the smaller house meant the children no longer had a study, Jonathan suggested constructing a long table at the end of the hall

for them to work at. Knowing that the owner was not a fan of excessive cabinetry, he came up with a "subtle and functional" design that ultimately won her over. Although the owner was initially apprehensive about his plans for blocking half of the full-height windows, she concedes that it "worked well eventually as it hides the air-con compressor on the ledge and at the same time, provides additional concealed storage below the desks."

Unfortunately, due to the layout of the flat, the door to the master bedroom is viewable from the hall, but it was moved towards the study to make it less conspicuous. Inside, the generous wardrobe holds the owner's "vast collection" of clothes, accessories and her Birkins. But what's really neat is that her washroom is concealed behind one of





CLEVER SOLUTION *(left)*

Hiding the bathroom reduces the awkwardness of having the washroom directly in front of the bed.

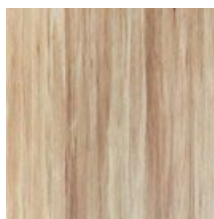
DARING AND DIFFERENT *(right)*

As the children like baths, having a tub was essential, but the owner did not like any of the compact ones on the market. She remembered seeing a glass bathtub and shared the idea with the designer and Steve (who did most of the construction work) and both were game to take it on.

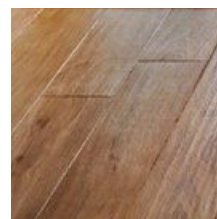
those doors, creating a secret sanctuary that houses a rather unique glass bathtub. She also splurged on Philippe Starck tiles and fittings here, giving the white-hued space more style and dimension.

She did however get to save on cost by switching from having oak — laid out in a herringbone design — to wooden porcelain tiles across the home. As much as she was fixated on the oak, things never seemed to work out with suppliers and timing. The alternative was suggested by Terry Tan, owner Rice Fields, which specialises in European Tiles. As he was an old friend, she trusted his recommendation and says it's a decision she'd "never regret". "Maintenance is a breeze and I am never fearful of an overly scratched floor. I could walk freely in my stilettos if I wanted to."

MATERIALS



CABINETY
Laminate



FLOORS
Porcelain
woodgrain tiles



BATHTUB
Laminated glass

ARTFUL ALLURE

This minimalist apartment is as much a private gallery as it is a home for the family



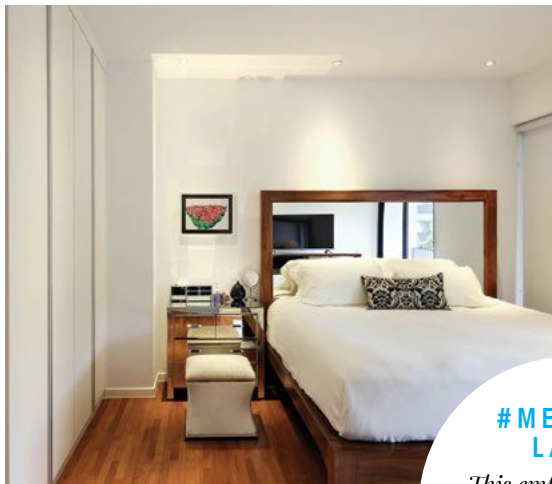
FACT FILE

- SPACE** 4-bedroom condominium unit
LOCATION Depot Road
HOME TO A family of three
DESIGNER Trifven Ho from Living Icon
RENO PERIOD Six weeks

Living Icon Pte Ltd was founded in 2002 by four intrepid designers with a vision to shift and influence the trends and styles in the market. Through the years, the company is known for meeting their valued clients' needs and requirements. Their niche lies in creating homes that reflect the personality of the homeowners. In fact, Living Icon prides themselves on their personalised services, unique designs and quality workmanship. With their inspired styling and out-of-the-box designs, Living Icon has garnered numerous praises for their high-end to mid-high projects.

▼ MASTER BEDROOM

Awash in white and wood, the master bedroom features a mix of new and well-loved furniture. These pieces integrate reflective surfaces to make the room feel luxe and larger.



#MEMORY LANE

This empty wall was turned into a picture gallery by framing up the family's fondest memories.

< LIVING

As avid art collectors, the homeowners wanted a clean and edgy scheme that serves as a canvas to showcase their colourful artworks. The key was to incorporate their love for art with the surrounding furnishings, and ultimately to create a New York-esque interior that's simple yet stylish. At the back, full-height mirrors impart a sense of airiness.



< STUDY

Plenty of wall-mounted storage and display cabinets provide ample space for the family's collection of books and ornaments. Trifven also utilised the bay window to create a little reading corner.

▼ ENTRYWAY


Trifven dressed up the blank walls of the walkway with an ensemble of monochrome prints. To make way for more natural light, he hacked down part of the wall and installed glass partitions to let visitors peek into the green study room.



LIVING ICON PTE LTD

28 Haji Lane, Singapore 189221

Tel: (65) 6220 3556 **Email:** ask@livingiconpl.com (strictly by appointment only)

Web: www.livingiconpl.com  Living Icon Pte Ltd

DRAB TO FAB

A much-needed remodel transformed this lacklustre unit to a modern chic pad

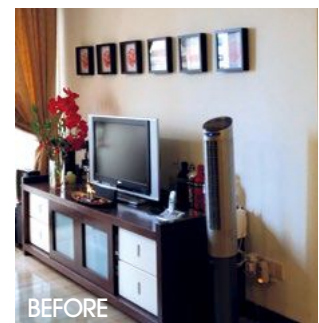


AFTER

FACT FILE

SPACE 5-room condominium unit
SIZE 1,163 square feet
LOCATION Heritage View
HOME TO A family of four
DESIGNER Mandy Lee from Dream Vision
RENO PERIOD One month

With years of experience and expertise in the local and international market, you can be sure that your home is in good hands. Dreamvision's guiding design principle, which is to understand their client's needs and priorities before design conceptualisation, has served them well in offering top-notch services. By striving for higher goals, they hope to provide fine workmanship, good designs and maintain the strong rapport they have with their clients.



BEFORE

< LIVING

Once dark and dingy without any focal point, the living area is now enlivened with a feature wall covered in high-gloss acrylic panels that complements the marble flooring. Recessed display niches were carved on the opposite wall to showcase the homeowners' collection of figurines. Lights fitted under the alcoves create a gallery-like effect.



#MIRROR MIRROR

Tinted mirrors have a gorgeous, subtle sheen if you're not keen on having the full reflective effect of a mirror.

^ KITCHEN

Tinted mirrors were once again used as wall coverings for the kitchen entrance, complete with glass doors to provide a sense of airiness. High-gloss acrylic cabinets combined with quartz countertops add extra shine to the polished interiors.

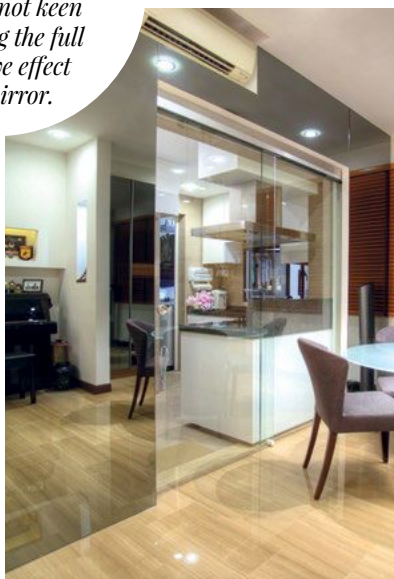


< FOYER

A shoe cabinet with tinted mirror doors blends in seamlessly with its unobtrusive design. Shelves at the bottom keep shoes that the homeowners often wear within easy reach, and a bench by the side lets them comfortably slip on their footwear before heading out.

v BATHROOM

Instead of having accent tiles running through the entire shower area, Mandy kept it looking clean by laying mosaic only around the shower fittings, leaving the rest of the bathroom simple with neutral homogenous tiles.



DREAMVISION DESIGNER PTE LTD

72 Eunos Avenue 7 #06-09, Singapore Handicrafts Building, Singapore 409570
Tel: 6635 5888 **Fax:** 6635 5886 **Email:** enquiry@dreamvision.com.sg
Web: www.dreamvision.com.sg

INTO THE WOODS

Playing with raw textures can inject a deal of personality, especially when it comes to enlivening a brooding industrial-themed space



FACT FILE

SPACE 5-room HDB flat
SIZE 900 square feet
LOCATION Serangoon Crescent
HOME TO A newlywed couple
DESIGNER Dan Tay from Hue Concept
RENO PERIOD Six weeks

Turning dream homes into reality, Hue Concept is all about delivering a midas touch of design flair to abodes. Elevating style to another level, they also endeavor to create homes of functionality to better the lives of those living in it. So if you're looking for style and substance, you can entrust your living space to the good hands of Hue Concept.

< LIVING AND DINING

Dan kept things interesting by contrasting an eye-catching cement screed wall against the wood ceiling treatment, which was actually achieved with wallpaper. The homeowners put a lot of effort into searching for one-of-a-kind furniture. Many items shown in the dining area were bought off the web, such as the wooden display case and theatre tripod floor lamp which transports us back to the '50s.



#GO GRAPHIC

This balcony was refreshed with intricate patterned tiles and outdoor furniture, making it a cosy reading nook.

^ MASTER BEDROOM

Bright and crisp, this space was kept clutter-free to allow the vintage furnishings to take centre stage. Instead of the typical glass door, Dan installed a sliding barn door that leads out to a beautifully-decorated patio.



^ MAIN BALCONY

To bring in a touch of nature, Dan filled the main balcony with lots of potted greenery and retro rattan pieces. He also introduced a nautical look with roller blinds in maritime blue and white.



HUE CONCEPT INTERIOR DESIGN PTE LTD

No 33 Ubi Ave 3 #01-25, Vertex Building, Singapore 408868
Tel: 6636 7202 **Fax:** 6636 7205 **Email:** askhue@hueconcept.com
Web: www.hueconcept.com

BISTRO COOL

This couple can now enjoy the cosy comforts of a cafe right at home



FACT FILE

- SPACE** 5-room HDB flat
- SIZE** 1,184 square feet
- LOCATION** Yung Kuang Road
- HOME TO** A newlywed couple
- DESIGNER** Jocelyn Shu from Meter Square
- RENO PERIOD** Five weeks

With a diverse portfolio and highly experienced designers with more than 20 years of experience, Meter Square has all it takes to turn dream homes into reality. They aim to deliver properties that are functional as well. By understanding every client's needs, they wish to convert every owner into a house-proud individual. It's no wonder they have received many word-of-mouth referrals from satisfied clients.



#WINE AND DINE

The living space is a cafe by day and bar by night. The area behind the sofa plays host to a wine rack and a bar counter for the couple to enjoy a sip or two.



< LIVING

As the homeowners are big fans of coffee culture, they wanted nothing more than to have a cafe-inspired abode. Jocelyn recreated the look with lots of wood, ambience lights and soft pops of colour. What's particularly striking is the exposed brick wall, which is covered in screed to create an industrial-looking, distressed effect.

v KITCHEN

Since the kitchen is relatively small, Jocelyn kept it clean with a scheme that was mostly white and removed the cabinets on top to make the space appear larger. In their place is a row of dangling pendant lights to give off a cosy vibe.



^ MASTER BEDROOM

The master bedroom tones down the severity of the industrial feel with timber flooring and pale cyan walls. Playing with patterns, Jocelyn constructed a wardrobe with an unconventional door pattern to make it look more eye-catching.

METER SQUARE

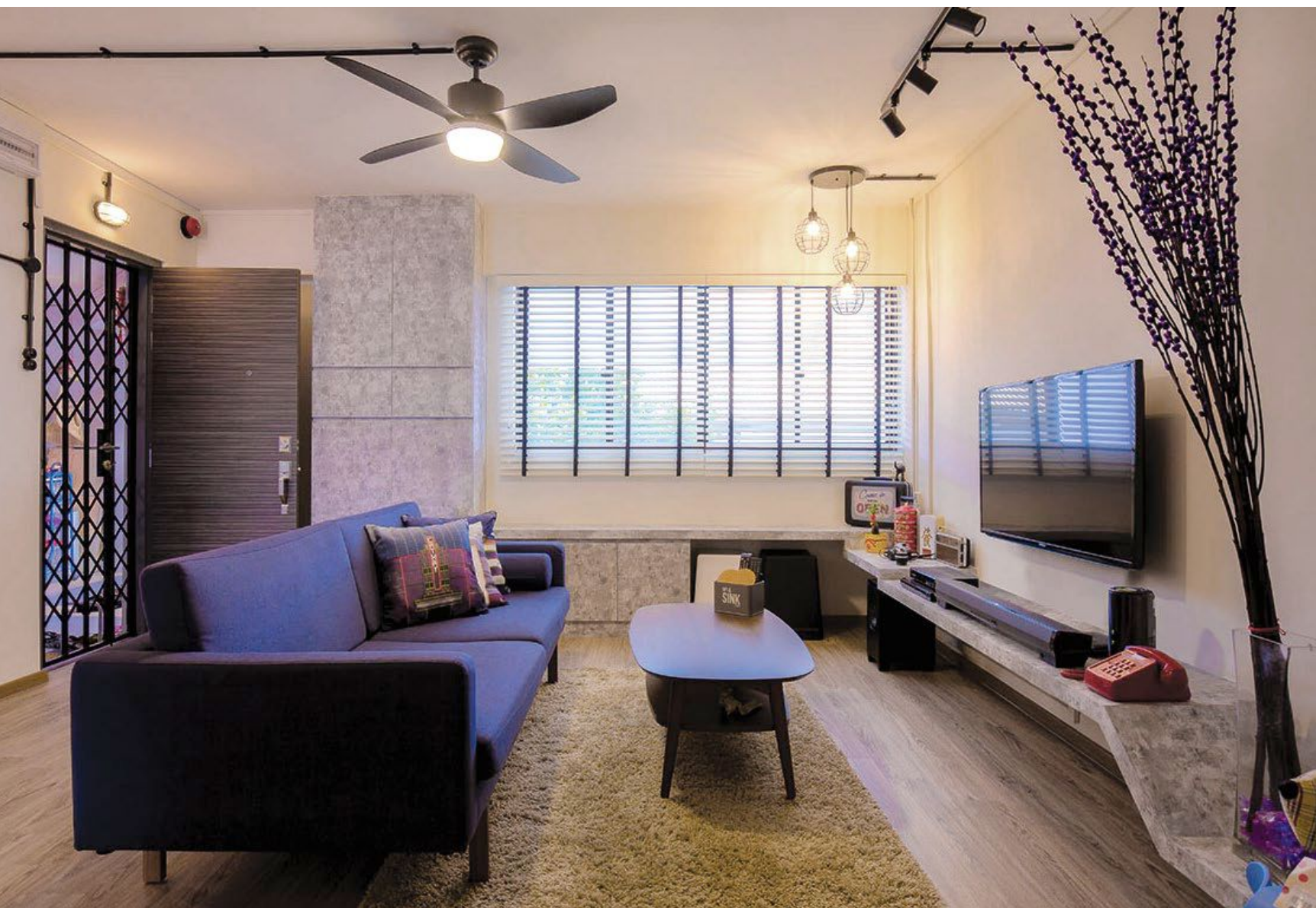
1 Pegu Road #01-03, Singapore 328358

Tel: 6256 2586 **Fax:** 6256 2582 **Email:** enquiry@metersquare.com.sg

Web: www.metersquare.com.sg

FORM & FUNCTION

This family comes home to a place that meets their needs and expresses their style



FACT FILE

SPACE 4-room HDB flat
SIZE 969 square feet
LOCATION Teck Whye Road
HOME TO A family of two
DESIGNER Sabrina Mieko Kee from Renozone
RENO PERIOD Four weeks

The team of designers at Renozone prides themselves on creating long-term relationships with their customers. One of the main reasons why they manage to cultivate such amiable ties is because the company takes pride in all the projects that they have completed. Renozone guarantees quality workmanship and services, making customer satisfaction their top priority.

< LIVING

One of the main highlights in this vintage-industrial themed home is its front entrance. Made of wrought iron, it was customised to look like traditional gates from Singapore's yesteryear, but fitted with a swinging hinge for modern use. In the rest of the living room, the raw, textured finishes of the carpentry are juxtaposed with the warm tones of the vinyl flooring.



#BRIGHT
IDEA

One of the key traits of an industrial-style home is to leave things exposed. Create a unique feature by incorporating lights along the piping.



^ MASTER BEDROOM

This bedroom was filled with bright furnishings and quirky knick-knacks that reflect the occupant's eclectic decorating style. A long study table allows the homeowner to display his treasured ornaments and keep his miscellaneous belongings stored neatly in drawers. It also provides generous worktop space for him to work in a well-lit spot.

^ KITCHEN

In a space defined by large expanses of stonewashed-effect surfaces, this kitchen contrasts the grey-hued flecks with white subway tiles that suggest a hint of Scandi design. To make the kitchen appear more spacious, only half of the wall was covered with subway tiles to visually elongate the space. As there's no designated dining area in the house, a breakfast counter was installed for the occupants to have their meals or do their kitchen prep work on.



RENOZONE INTERIOR DESIGN HOUSE

1 Jalan Klapa, Singapore 199313

Tel: 6292 3345 Fax: 6292 3045 Email: admin@renozone.com.sg

Web: www.renozone.com.sg

RUGGED BEAUTY

All it takes are just some unrefined raw elements to turn a stark HDB flat unit into a rustic urban home



FACT FILE

SPACE 4-room HDB flat unit
SIZE 950 square feet
LOCATION Punggol
HOME TO A couple
DESIGNER Xavier Wong from Rezt & Relax
RENO PERIOD Six weeks

Founded in 2001, Rezt & Relax is the brainchild of design partners Wilson Teh and John Foo. Their portfolio includes a wide spectrum of residential and commercial projects. The team at Rezt & Relax believes in offering creative design solutions and trend forecasts to help owners relax and unwind in the comfort of their homes.

< LIVING

Providing an inspiring mix of old and new, the entire house was swathed in earthy hues and wooden textures. The laminated panels with patterns resembling cement screed act as a strong focal point in the living area.

> BEDROOM

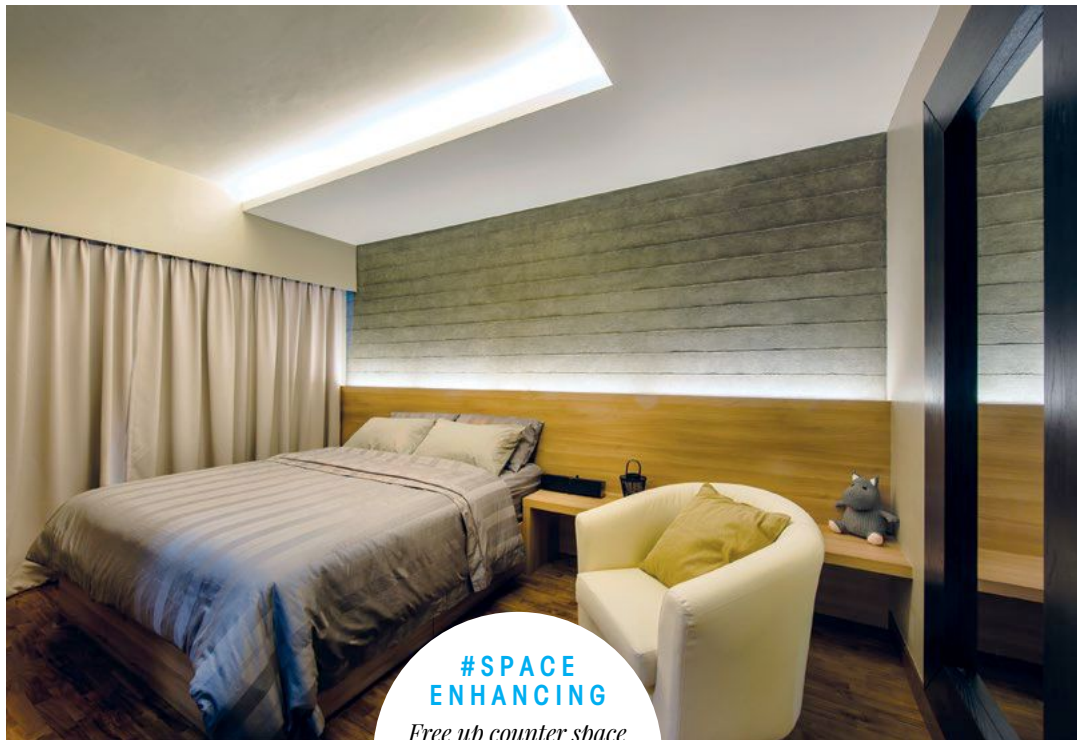
To fulfil the homeowners' wish for a walk-in wardrobe, the walls separating two adjoining rooms were removed. The feature wall was constructed with a stucco effect at the top half, while the bottom half covered with laminate serves as a headboard.

> STUDY AREA

A full-length wardrobe offers plenty of storage space for miscellaneous objects. Behind, a long table with grainy laminate finishing doubles as the dressing and study table.

▼ BATHROOM

To keep things interesting, the walls of the shower area were laid with homogenous tiles of varying colour tones.



#SPACE ENHANCING

*Free up counter space
by building a sturdy
kitchen cabinet with
display storage and
drawer pullouts.*



^ KITCHEN

For a sense of continuity throughout the home, the kitchen was done up in a similar colour scheme with wood tones. Keeping things simple, it was furnished with white solid surface countertops and cabinetry with woodgrain pattern laminate.

REZT & RELAX INTERIOR

No. 33 Ubi Avenue 3 #02-09, Vertex Tower B (Access Lift Lobby B), Singapore 408868

Tel: 6348 7787 Fax: 6348 7797 Email: customer@reztnrelax.com

Web: www.reztnrelax.com  [reztnrelax](https://www.facebook.com/reztnrelax)

STYLE CHAMELEON

This apartment proves you don't always have to mesh themes together; each room was personalised to encompass a distinctive look of its own



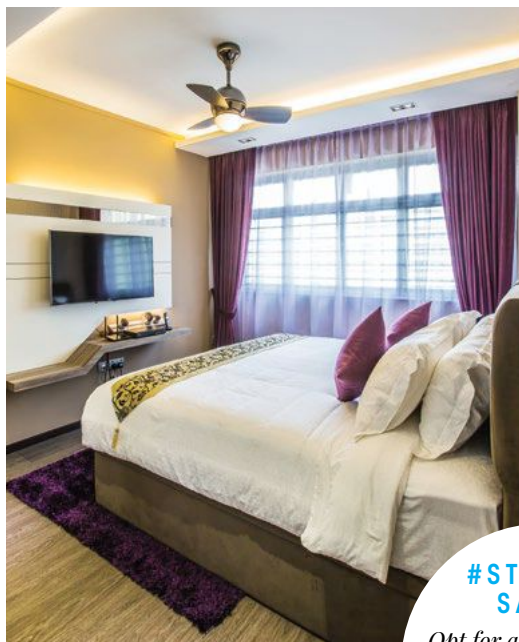
FACT FILE

- SPACE** 4-bedroom HDB flat
- SIZE** 900 square feet
- LOCATION** Punggol
- HOME TO** A family of three
- DESIGNER** Pierce Chong from Sky Creation
- RENO PERIOD** Two months

Sky Creation Design offers a one-stop solution for all home furnishing needs. Besides providing world-class residential and commercial design services, they have developed four labels of their own – Acqua, Luce, Tissus and Himmel Kuche – to give homeowners comprehensive options for their interior needs. Regardless of your design theme or lifestyle, Sky Creation Design is dedicated to conceptualising your dream home with keen attention to details and quality workmanship.

> MASTER BEDROOM

Plush purple drapes and gold embellishments adorn the room to accommodate the colour preferences of the couple, while maintaining its modern grandeur. To enhance its stylish appearance, the designer constructed a feature piece with angular edges, which also keeps unsightly wires away from sight.



< LIVING AND DINING

Neutral shades of lavender and grey come together to create a casual yet elegant living space. On an otherwise lacklustre wall, monochromatic frames were clustered together in an informal configuration. Lighting plays a huge part in improving the overall look and feel, so ambient lights were used to accentuate the various decorative accents.



#STORAGE SAVVY

Opt for a platform that integrates concealed storage to keep things tucked away in a stylish manner.



^ KID'S BEDROOM

As kids love bright and inviting hues, Pierce gave this bedroom a splash of lime green on the wall and furnished it with a colourful mat. What the eye can't see is extra storage hidden underneath the custom-made wooden platform, which was an important criterion for the homeowners.

< KITCHEN

Unlike the rest of the apartment, the kitchen stands out with its crisp, all-white interior. Glossy laminate surfaces paired with the white flooring visually enlarge the entire layout.



SKY CREATION DESIGN PTE LTD

No 8 Kim Keat Lane, Singapore 328865
 51 Ubi Avenue 1 #02-09/10, Paya Ubi Industrial Park (Sky Creation Musee)
Tel: 6352 8809 **Fax:** 6352 8815 **Email:** info@skycreation.com.sg
Web: www.skycreation.com.sg **f** Sky Creation

ROOM FOR MORE

This abode cleverly incorporates storage in its nooks and crannies, creating a highly functional and impeccable home



FACT FILE

SPACE 4-bedroom executive condominium unit
SIZE 1,200 square feet
LOCATION Bukit Panjang
HOME TO Family of four
DESIGNER Clive Tan from Living Gaia
RENO PERIOD Five weeks

At Living Gaia Interior, dedicated and talented interior designers are on hand to interpret and achieve your interior desires. The company's aim is to provide professional interior design consultancy which is creative, cost effective and exceptional. With a combined experience of over 30 years, Living Gaia's experts strive to achieve excellent customer service, timely completion and excellent workmanship. In addition, aligning with the design firm's green vision, environmentally-friendly and sustainable products are used in the construction of its projects.

< LIVING

The earthy hues of the furniture lend the living room a rustic feel, while the feature wall fuses both rustic and modern styles together with its sleek clean lines and wood laminate surface. The addition of a ledge cum storage above provides a display area for the owner's liquor collection.

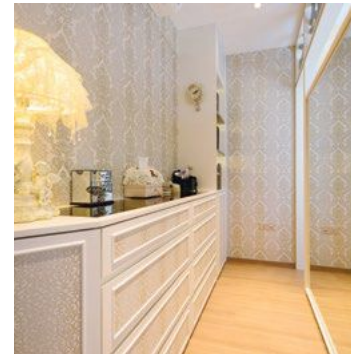
> DINING

In keeping with the owners' request for more storage, the dining bench includes hidden and unobtrusive storage below. The mirror installed here also visually extends the space and reflects light to enliven the living and dining area.



v MASTER BEDROOM

The owners had wanted their bed to face a certain direction. Clive noticed the pool view and suggested to place the bed closer to the window, granting them better scenery while fulfilling the geomancy requirements. Behind, he installed storage cabinets and a full-sized mirror to create a convenient dressing space for the owners.



^ DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM

Maximising the space of the room, Clive added storage on three sides. There's open and closed shelving above the study table (to display toys and books while hiding other items), pull-out drawers under the bed, and more storage behind the partition wall that also offers some privacy to the occupant.



LIVING GAIA INTERIOR PTE LTD

33 Ubi Avenue 3, #01-42 Vertex, Singapore 408868

Tel: 6509 8866 / 6636 7923 **Email:** enquiries@livinggaia.com.sg

Web: www.livinggaia.com.sg  Living Gaia Interior

OPEN AND SIMPLE

This neutral-palette abode oozes character amidst the ordinary



FACT FILE

SPACE 4-room HDB flat
SIZE 968 square feet
LOCATION Yishun
HOME TO A married couple
DESIGNER Dorothy Lau from The Orange Cube
RENO PERIOD Two months

Inspired and motivated to provide a complete package of services, The Orange Cube is equipped to take clients through design conception to building completion. As a result of this all-encompassing dedication, the company has amassed an impressive portfolio in both residential and commercial projects ever since its establishment 10 years ago. With their can-do attitude and enthusiasm in design and offering impeccable service, it's no wonder the company has gained a firm foothold in the interior design scene.

< LIVING

In accordance with the chosen wooden theme, the living area employs warm, neutral shades from the pecan vinyl flooring to the grey laminate shoe cabinet. The centrepiece sofa gives the area a pop of green. At the side, a display shelf holds household items whilst showcasing a variety of art pieces.

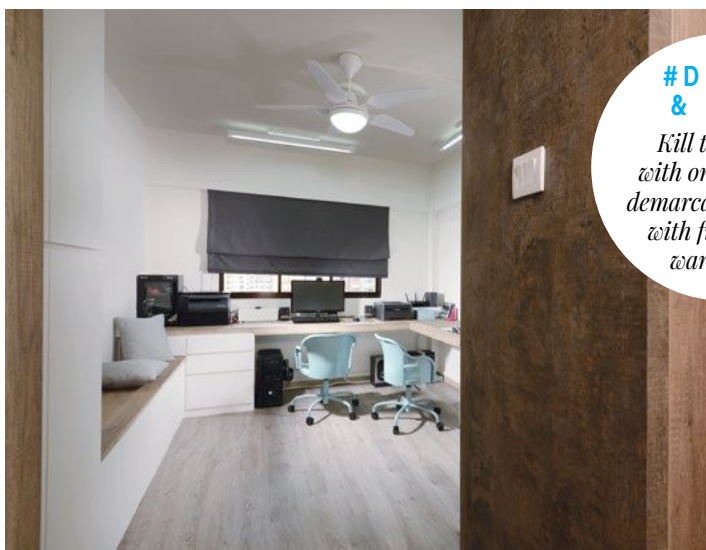


> MASTER BEDROOM

A ladder used as a clothes hanger adds an unconventional twist to the room. Dorothy also set up a wardrobe that doubles up as a divider between the bedroom and study. Light in the alcove adds warmth to the decor.

∨ STUDY

This space has a more invigorating mood and brighter lighting to facilitate work. To prevent clutter, Dorothy maximised storage options by installing cabinets beneath the study table and side settee. Complete with roller shades to keep out the sunlight, the room is a perfect set-up for the occasional situations when the couple has to work from home.



#DIVIDE & RULE


*Kill two birds
with one stone by
demarcating spaces
with functional
wardrobes.*



^ DINING

Moving away from conventional kitchen counters, Dorothy customised an island-style kitchen and dining table. With its pristine white hue, it gives the illusion of a spacious room. Additionally, its low height and central position facilitate communication between the couple as they prep food. Pendant lamps overlooking the dining table impart an elegant glow to the space.

THE ORANGE CUBE PTE LTD

14 Arumugam Road, #01-03 Lion Building C, Singapore 409959
Tel: 6337 7277 Fax: 6337 7570 Email: enquiry@theorangecube.com
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AT YOUR *convenience*

Kitchens are the heart of every home, so make it a safe and practical place with these handy systems by Blum



It's not easy keeping your kitchen looking clean, organised and risk-free all at once, but kitchen fittings manufacturer, Blum, helps you get there with its Legrabox drawer and Aventos lift systems.

SLIDE EFFICIENTLY

Legrabox's smooth runner mechanism lets your kitchen drawers glide effortlessly even under heavy loads, and being able to carry a weight of up to 70kg means storing even the heaviest of kitchen equipment is a breeze. Besides packing a punch with features, they come with a sleek and fuss-free design — each drawer is just 12.8mm thick, with the slides completely concealed underneath stainless steel. For an extra level of organisation, there's Ambia-Line,

an inner dividing system specially developed to complement Legrabox.

LIFT EFFORTLESSLY

Blum's newest addition to their versatile range of lift systems is the Aventos HK-XS, designed for small top wall cabinets. It has an unobtrusive design, so you can install them even in cupboards with shallow interiors. A great option if you're looking to do kitchen improvements yourself, since its components can be easily assembled with just a simple tool. This is ideal for typically tight spaces like above refrigerators or extractors.

ACCESS EASILY

With the help of the 'soft-close' Blumotion hinges, the Legrabox and Aventos HK-XS systems close

silently with a gentle push. For more convenient access, Legrabox and Aventos HK-XS can be upgraded with 'touch-to-open' systems Servo-Drive (electrical) and Tip-On (mechanical) respectively.

Legrabox is available exclusively through urbanKITCHEN by Blum Singapore, which creates efficient kitchen concepts to fit your lifestyle. Interested homeowners can email urbankitchen.sg@blum.com to secure an appointment to transform your kitchen today. For more information on Aventos HK-XS, visit www.blum.com/sg

BLUM SOUTH EAST ASIA PTE LTD

150 Ubi Avenue 4
#02-01 Ubi Biz-Hub
Singapore 408825

Tel: 6547 1760 **Fax:** 6547 1761

CURVY beauties

Samsung's latest SUHD curved TVs are all out to wow with stunning images and cool features

Not all TVs are made equal, and Samsung's newest SUHD TVs make that very clear. Honoured with the 'S' identifier that Samsung uses for its premium flagship products, the TVs deliver a wider and more accurate range of colours than before, thanks to the newly introduced Nano-Crystal Colour Technology. Contrast and brightness have also been boosted, resulting in images with greater clarity and precision, even during the darkest and brightest moments of any show. To deliver the most immersive entertainment experience, the sleek sets have a slight curve that wraps around your field of vision, drawing you right into the action.

Besides the visuals, the sets are beautiful sights on their own too. The JS9500 looks like art with its chamfer bezel design that frames the screen perfectly. Meanwhile, the JS9000 has an extended shirring design behind the display, showing the amount of attention Samsung gave to ensure a design that looks



good from all angles. Inspired by contemporary art and architecture, the chic and elegant TVs lend a modern, sophisticated touch to all spaces.

Making the leap into creating 'smarter' homes, some useful features include being able to pair the latest S6 and S6 Edge phones with the TV to share screens – a handy feature if you need to head to the kitchen or bathroom while a live programme is on. The phones can also be used as remote controls if you constantly misplace the original ones.

To enhance these cutting-edge sets, curved soundbars are available in complementary

sizes and come with a Clear Voice algorithm that helps minimise background sound. One of the soundbars (HW-J8501) even offers high sound quality with 9.1 channel audio. Together, the soundbars and SUHD TVs come together to deliver the most seamless and impactful entertainment you've ever experienced.

The JS9500 comes in three sizes, 65", 78" and 88", and the JS9000 is available in two sizes, 55" and 65".

Visit www.samsung.com/sg/suhdtv for more information.

Available at all Samsung authorised dealers.

SIMPLY swiss

It was an evening of free-flowing fun and charming celebration at Geberit's Swiss-themed event held last month. We take a closer look at why the sanitary tech pioneer is all for Switzerland

From traditional Swiss bites and games to being serenaded by the Swiss Alpine Lions, guests were treated to a slice of Switzerland at Geberit's Simply Swiss event held at the Grand Marquee, Hotel Fort Canning in May. Besides launching two new collections, the CleanLine shower channels and the remote flush actuator plates, one of the other highlights was the showcase of their ultra-customisable Sigma50 flush plate, decked out in stunning Swarovski crystals to depict a mountainous scene in Switzerland.

The event was held to commemorate the company's Swiss heritage – Geberit's origins began in the European country and can be traced all the way back to 1874. But more than that, it was to celebrate their products' embodiment of the Swiss spirit of innovation, versatility and quality.

INNOVATION

Switzerland is renowned as a hub of modern science, technology and engineering. And it is innovation that drives them all. This drive for new methods and ways of thinking is rooted in Geberit's products. We see it in its AquaClean Sela shower toilet – it may look like a normal WC, but it comes with a water spray that cleans you gently at body temperature. Its power supply lines and pipes are also integrated into the ceramic unit for



a sleek, streamlined design. Its CleanLine shower channels are just as revolutionary in their design. They don't have any hidden edges or corners so it makes cleaning really stress-free.

VERSATILITY

Needs and desires vary, which is why many of Geberit's products are customisable, including their newly launched actuator plates. Choose from a variety of design lines, materials, colours and



surface finishes for one that fits right into your washroom. Geberit also offers concealed cisterns for every bathroom situation, whether for solid or brick wall, or drywall constructions.

QUALITY

We often associate Swiss products with quality. And Geberit's products are no different. Its systems are tested in-house a million times before it is launched. The company also interacts with approximately 30,000 plumbers, architects and planners in a year to transfer their expertise into the products it makes.

GEBERIT SOUTH EAST ASIA

59 Jalan Permimpin
#01-01 L&Y Building
Singapore 577218

Tel: 6250 4011

www.geberit.com.sg



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The Vesuvius by SoftRock Living is constructed out of a removable and washable synthetic suede cover and an inner bag filled with lightweight expanded polystyrene (EPS) pellets. With their double layers, the beanbags are more durable, easier to clean and safer to use. They're also extremely versatile and can be positioned in six different ways.



Images are for illustration purposes only.

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www.dreamvision.com.sg

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Rezt & Relax

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Sky Creation

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tel: 6352 8809

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#02-09 Paya Ubi
Industrial Park
tel: 6748 8956
www.skycreation.com.sg

Studio JP

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#02-01 Katong Plaza
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www.studiojp.sg

SuMISURA

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#07-07
tel: 6281 9500
www.sumisura.asia

The Orange Cube

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#01-03 Lion Building C
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LET'S TALK!

Tell us all about your renovation and furnishing preferences! We'd love to hear from you.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Terrace | <input type="checkbox"/> Semi-detached | <input type="checkbox"/> Bungalow | <input type="checkbox"/> Others (Please specify) _____ | |

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- | | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Victorian/Baroque | <input type="checkbox"/> Scandinavian | <input type="checkbox"/> Modern Asian | | |

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Flooring: _____	Paint: _____
Furniture: _____	Home accessories: _____
Kitchen appliances: _____	Entertainment appliances: _____
Bathroom sanitary wares: _____	Online retailers/others: _____

What are your reason/s for buying from these brands?

- | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Design | <input type="checkbox"/> Price | <input type="checkbox"/> Free delivery | <input type="checkbox"/> Reliability | <input type="checkbox"/> Customer service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Variety | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality | | | |

Which section/s do you like best in SquareRooms?

- | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOT | <input type="checkbox"/> Style | <input type="checkbox"/> Style+ | <input type="checkbox"/> Solutions | <input type="checkbox"/> Shop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simple | <input type="checkbox"/> Spaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Surface | <input type="checkbox"/> Savvy | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Talk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ProAds | <input type="checkbox"/> Shortcut | | | |

Personal Details:

Name _____	Age _____
Title *(Mr/Mrs/Mdm/Ms) _____	
I/C No. _____	Occupation _____
Phone (Home) _____	(Mobile) _____
Email _____	

Home Details:

<input type="checkbox"/> Current Home	<input type="checkbox"/> Recently Purchased (New)	<input type="checkbox"/> Recently Purchased (Resale)
Home Address _____		Postal Code _____
Estimated Budget _____		
No. of Adult Occupants _____		
Expected Date of Key Collection (if Appropriate) _____		Children (if any) _____

- Do you require renovation loans? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- If yes, would you like to have a personal banker advise you on renovation loan matters? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Upon completion of this form, you are entitled to a free interior design plan from our interior design associates. Fax or email this form together with your floor plan to:

<Email subject header> SquareRooms 'Let's Talk'
Email: info@key-editions.com Fax: 6445 3373

VISIT: bit.do/SquareRoomsID

This form
is also
available
online!

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tel: 6547 1760
www.blum.com

Casa Holdings

15 Kian Teck Crescent
tel: 6268 0066
www.casaholdings.com.sg

Dulux

www.dulux.com.sg

Free Space Intent

8 Ubi Road 2
#02-07 Zervex
tel: 6392 8885
www.fsi.com.sg

Geberit South East Asia Pte Ltd

59 Jalan Pemimpin
#01-01 L&Y Building
tel: 6250 4011
www.geberit.com.sg

Journey East

315 Outram Road
#03-02 Tan Boon Liat Building
tel: 6473 1693
www.journeyeast.com

Kludi Asia Pacific

124 Lorong 23 Geylang
#02-01 Arcsphere
www.kludi.com

Mong Design Studio

73 Upper Paya Lebar Road
#05-01 Centro Bianco
tel: 6753 3005
www.mongdesignstudio.com.sg

Mudian

33 Ubi Avenue 3
#01-21 to 23 Vertex Building
tel: 6733 7378
www.mudian.com.sg

OM

16 Tai Seng Street
Level 8
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www.om-home.com

Samsung

www.samsung.com/sg

SoftRock Living

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tel: 9753 5927
www.softrockliving.com

Spin

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www.spinfans.com.sg

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atomi

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#04-27 Mandarin Gallery
tel: 6887 4138
www.atomi-jp.com

Bloomingville

www.bloomingville.com

BoConcept

290 Orchard Road
#04-01 Paragon
tel: 6736 0777
www.boconcept.sg

CB2

178A Orchard Road
Peranakan Place Complex
tel: 6732 5333
www.cb2.com

Comfort Design

110 Eunos Avenue 7
Comfort Design Building
tel: 6747 4809
www.comfortfurniture.com.sg

Commune

9 Raffles Boulevard
#02-52
tel: 6338 3823
www.thecommunelife.com

Danish Design

100E Pasir Panjang Road
#08-01 Century Warehouse

1 Boon Leat Terrace
#01-02 Harbourside Building 1
tel: 6270 8483
www.danishdesignco.com

Dream

456 River Valley Road
tel: 6235 0220
www.dream.com.sg

Eco Chic

www.ecochic.com.au

Ethnicraft

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www.ethnicraft-online.com.sg

Etsy

www.etsy.com

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www.fredliveshere.com

Grafunkt

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#02-01/02 Tong Yuan
Industrial Building
tel: 6281 8465

9 Raffles Boulevard
#02-34/35/36
tel: 6336 6046
www.grafunkt.com

Hay

www.hay.dk

HipVan

www.hipvan.com

HomesToLife

www.homestolife.com

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tel: 6786 6868

317 Alexandra Road

tel: 6786 6868

www.ikea.com.sg

In-Spaces

www.in-spaces.com

Indie art and design

www.indie.com.au

J-me

www.j-me.com

Lifestorey

1 Kim Seng Promenade
#02-15 Great World City
tel: 6732 7362
www.lifestorey.com

MacsK

63 Mohamed Sultan Road
#01-14
tel: 6443 2282
www.macsk.com

Muji Singapore

www.muji.com

Naiise

www.naiise.com

Oliver Furniture

www.oliverfurniture.dk

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#02-03 Sime Darby Centre
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www.originals.com.sg

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2 Alexandra Road
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tel: 6534 9043
www.pureinterior.com.sg

Ringvide Studio

www.ringvide.com

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www.shimu.co.uk

Space Furniture

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tel: 6415 0000
www.spacefurniture.com.sg

The Lab SG

1 Jalan Pisang #01-01
tel: 6299 5681

The Land of Nod

www.landofnod.com

Tolix

www.tolix.fr

Visionnaire

1F Figaro Street
Opera Estate
tel: 6749 0910
www.visionnaire.com.sg

XTRA

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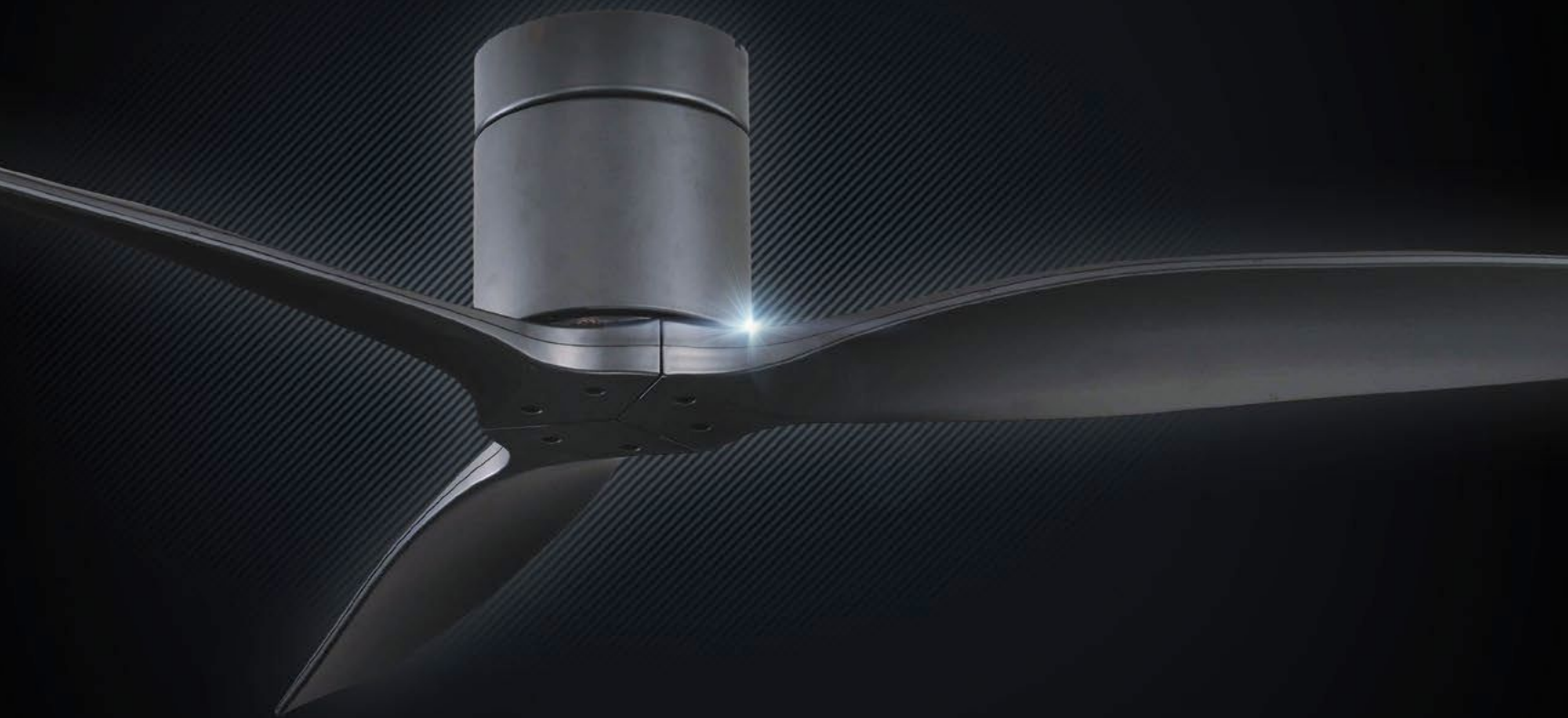
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